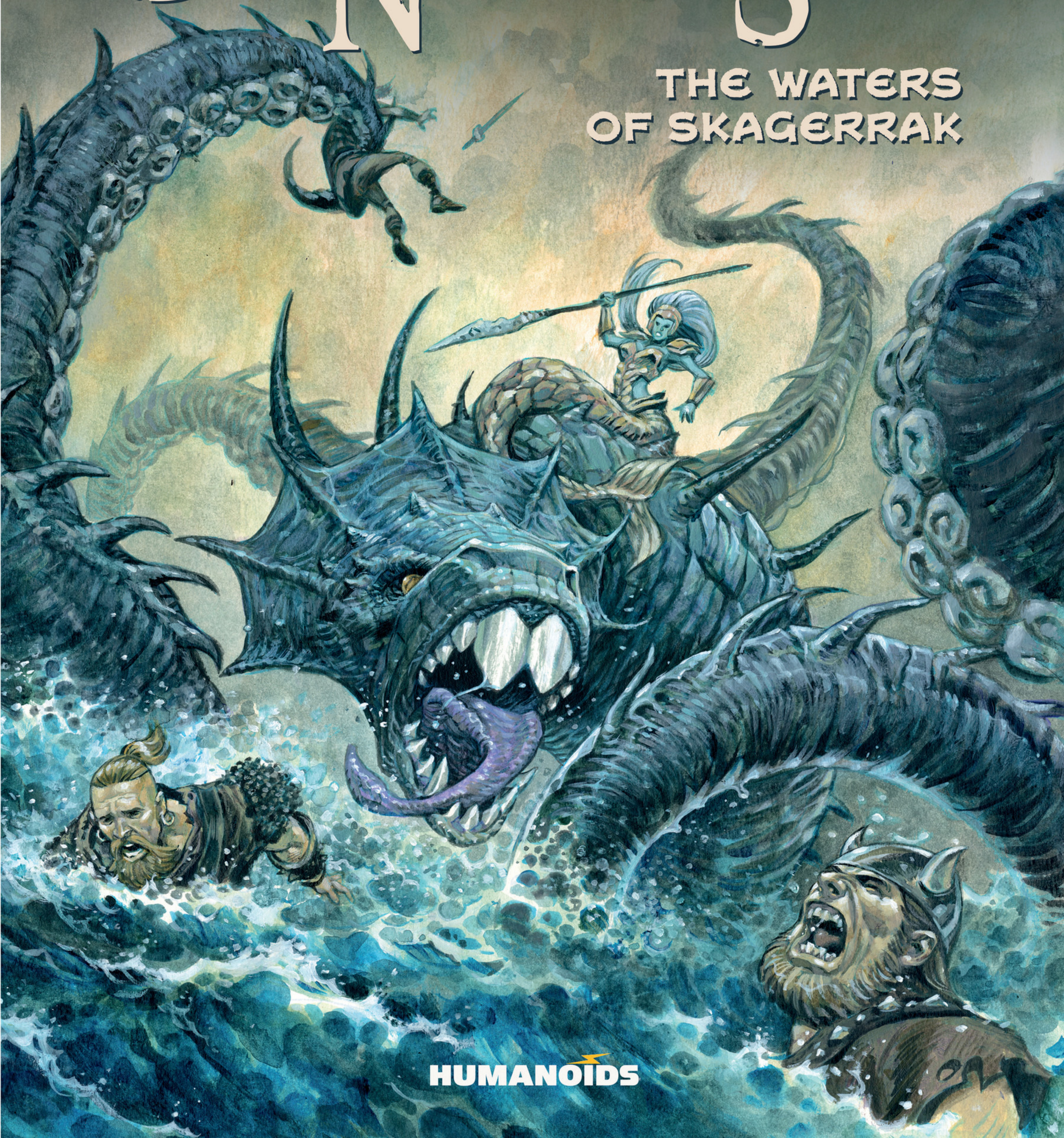


SIRENS OF THE NORSE SEA

RUSCAK GIHEF
BRIONES & DOMINICI

THE WATERS
OF SKAGERRAK



HUMANOIDS

THE SCOURGE OF THE ABYSS



SOGNEFJORD

NOREEGR

TYRIFJORD

KATTEGLÄND

TROLL
VILLAGE

SVEA

NORTH
SEA

SKAGERRAK

KATTEGAT



PALACE OF
AEGIR



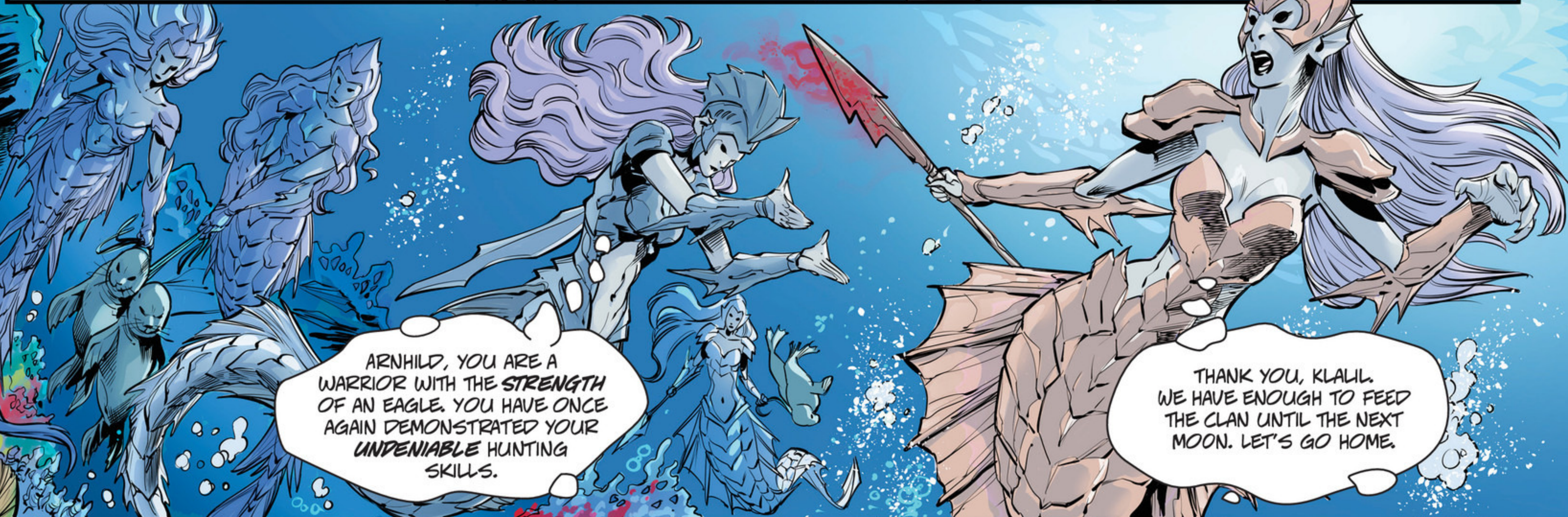
NEWT CAVE

DENMORK

BALTIC SEA

EAST FRANCIA

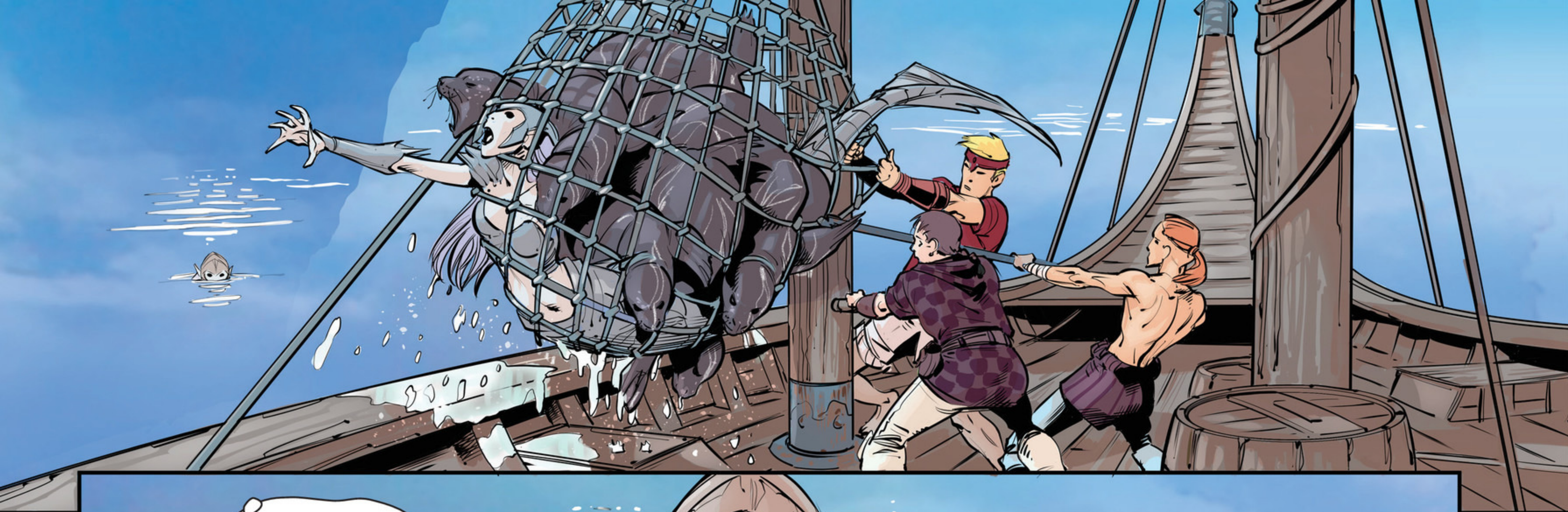
AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE
SKAGERRAK AND THE KATTEGAT.



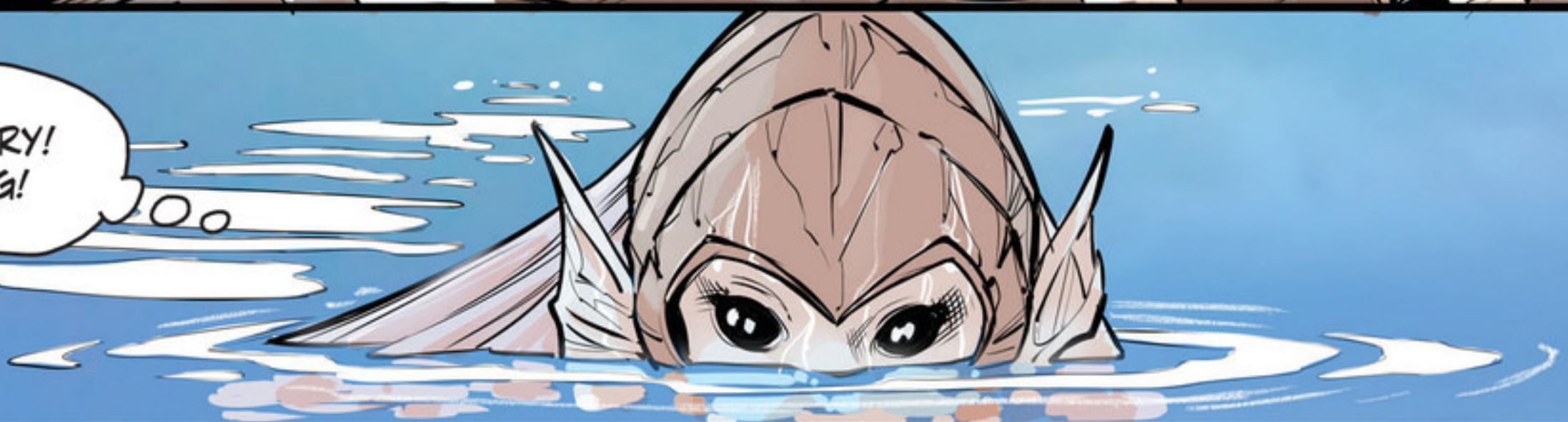
ARNILD, YOU ARE A
WARRIOR WITH THE **STRENGTH**
OF AN EAGLE. YOU HAVE ONCE
AGAIN DEMONSTRATED YOUR
UNDENIABLE HUNTING
SKILLS.

THANK YOU, KLALIL.
WE HAVE ENOUGH TO FEED
THE CLAN UNTIL THE NEXT
MOON. LET'S GO HOME.

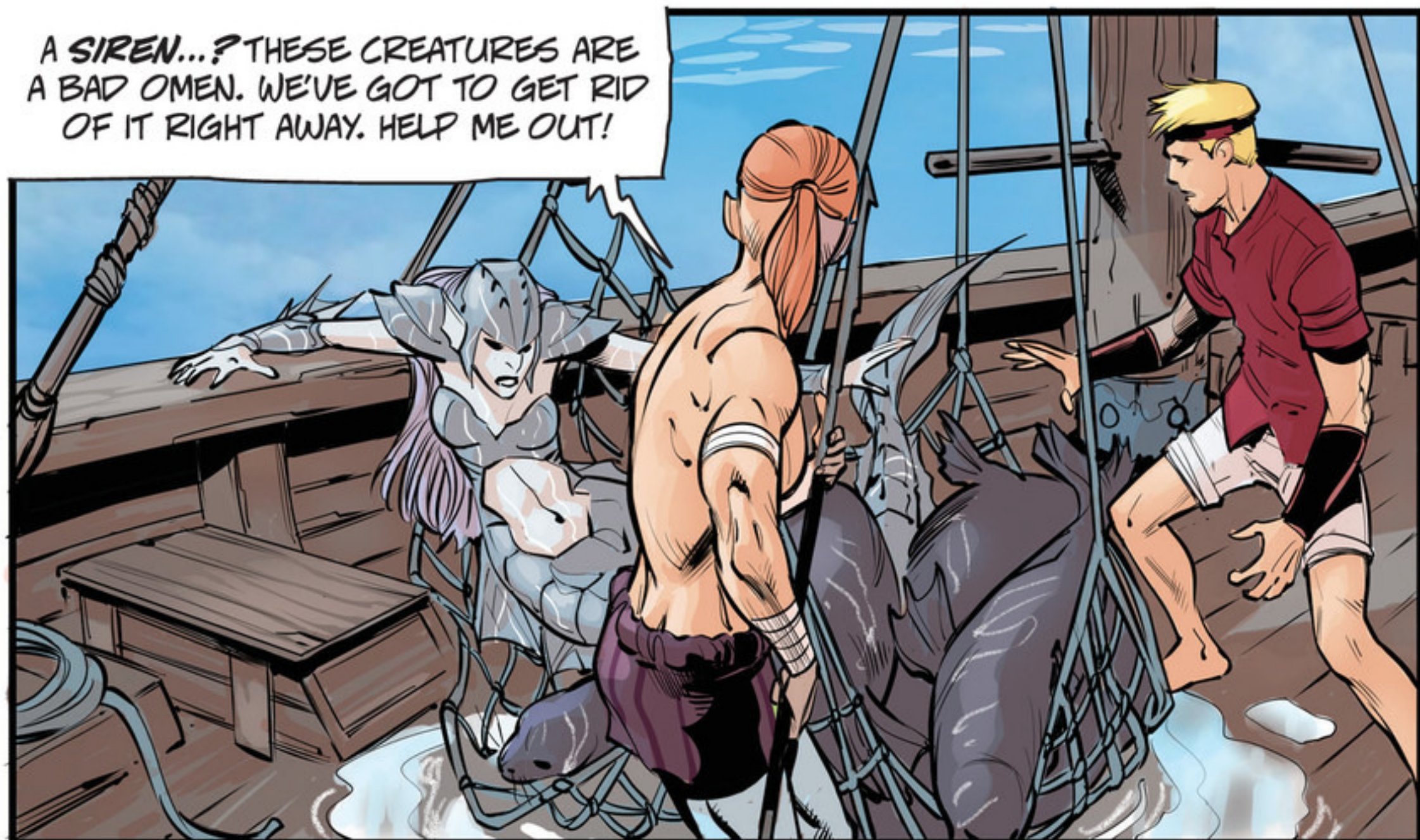
AAAAAAH!!



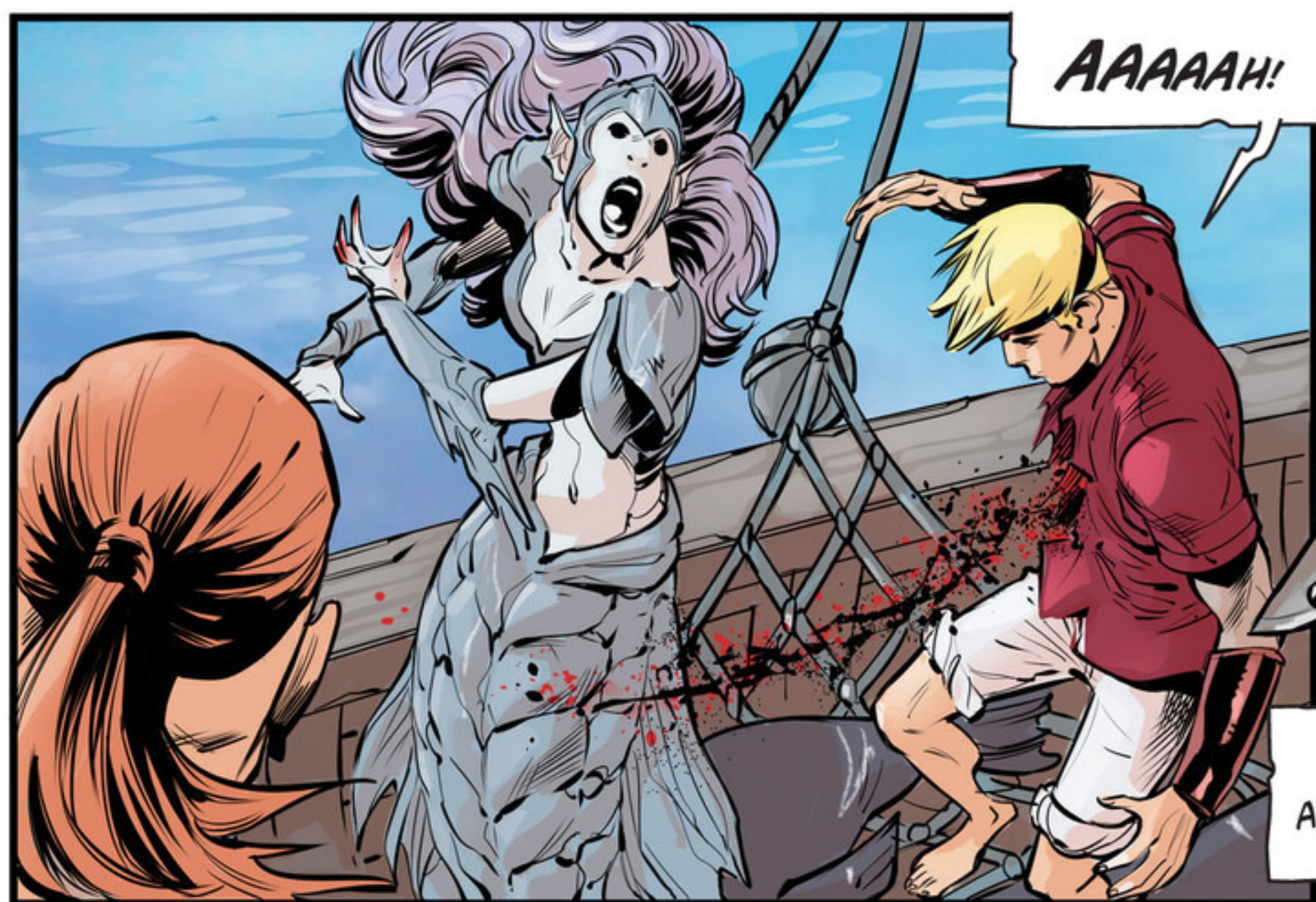
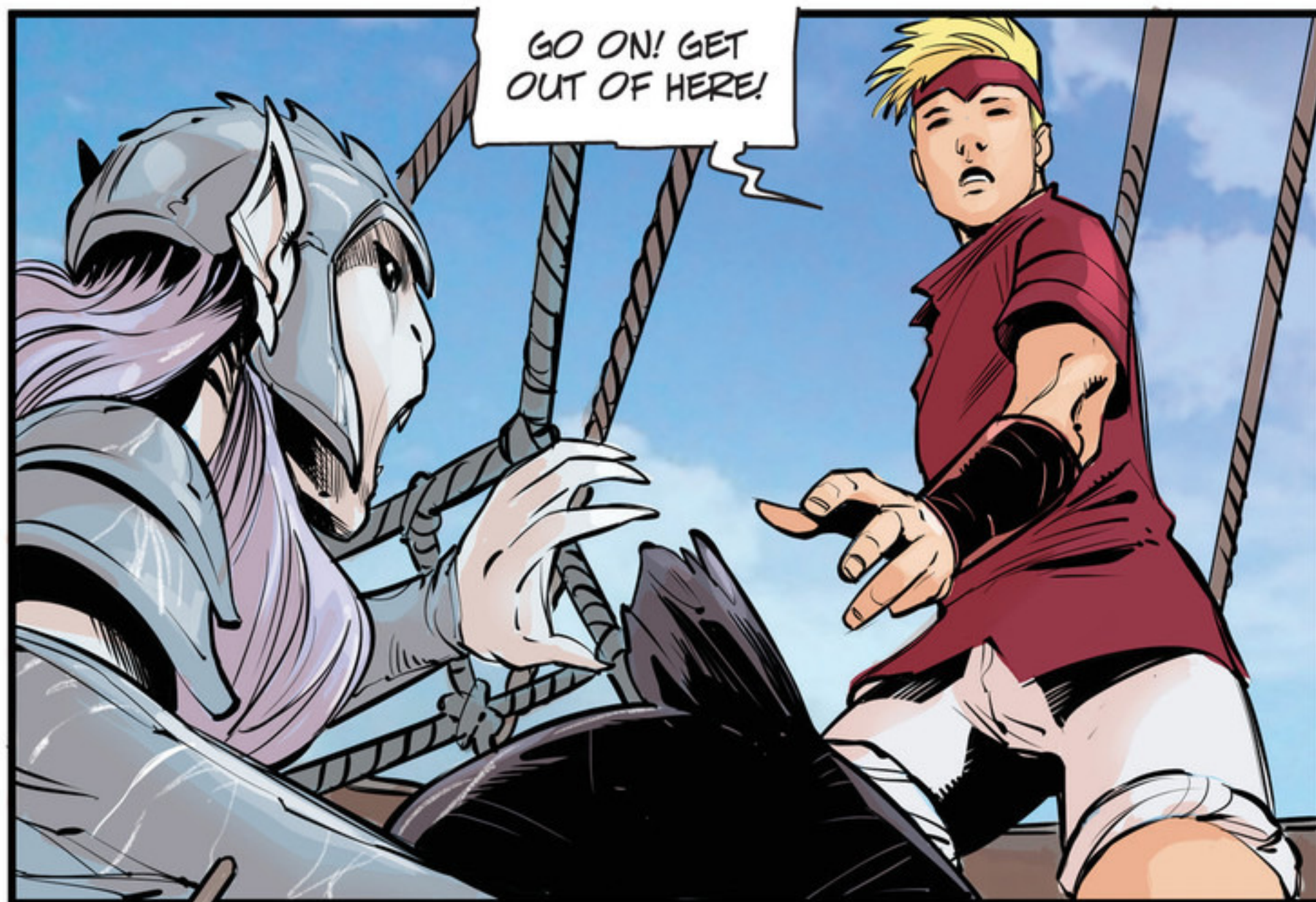
DON'T WORRY!
I'M COMING!



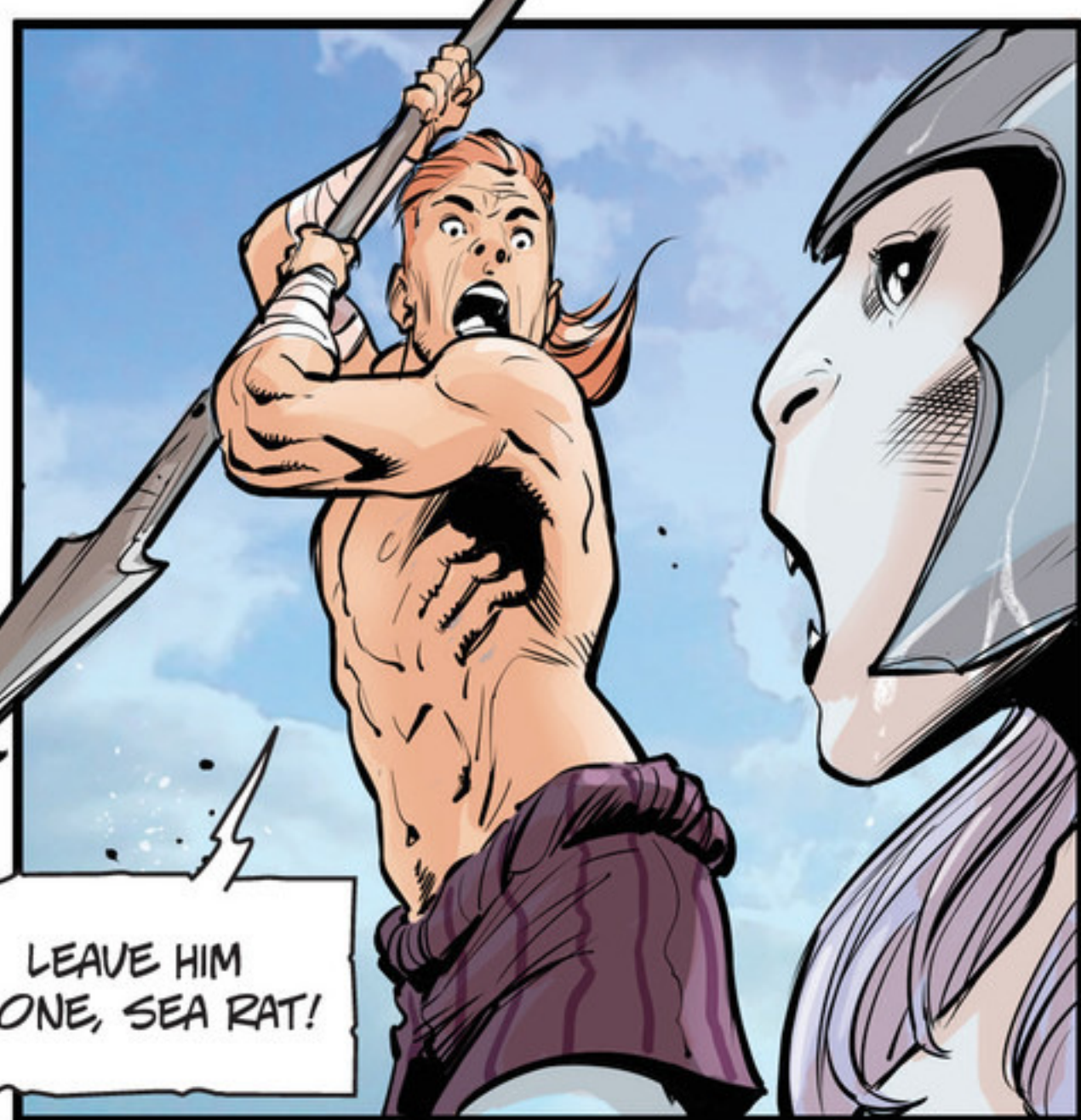
A SIREN...? THESE CREATURES ARE
A BAD OMEN. WE'VE GOT TO GET RID
OF IT RIGHT AWAY. HELP ME OUT!



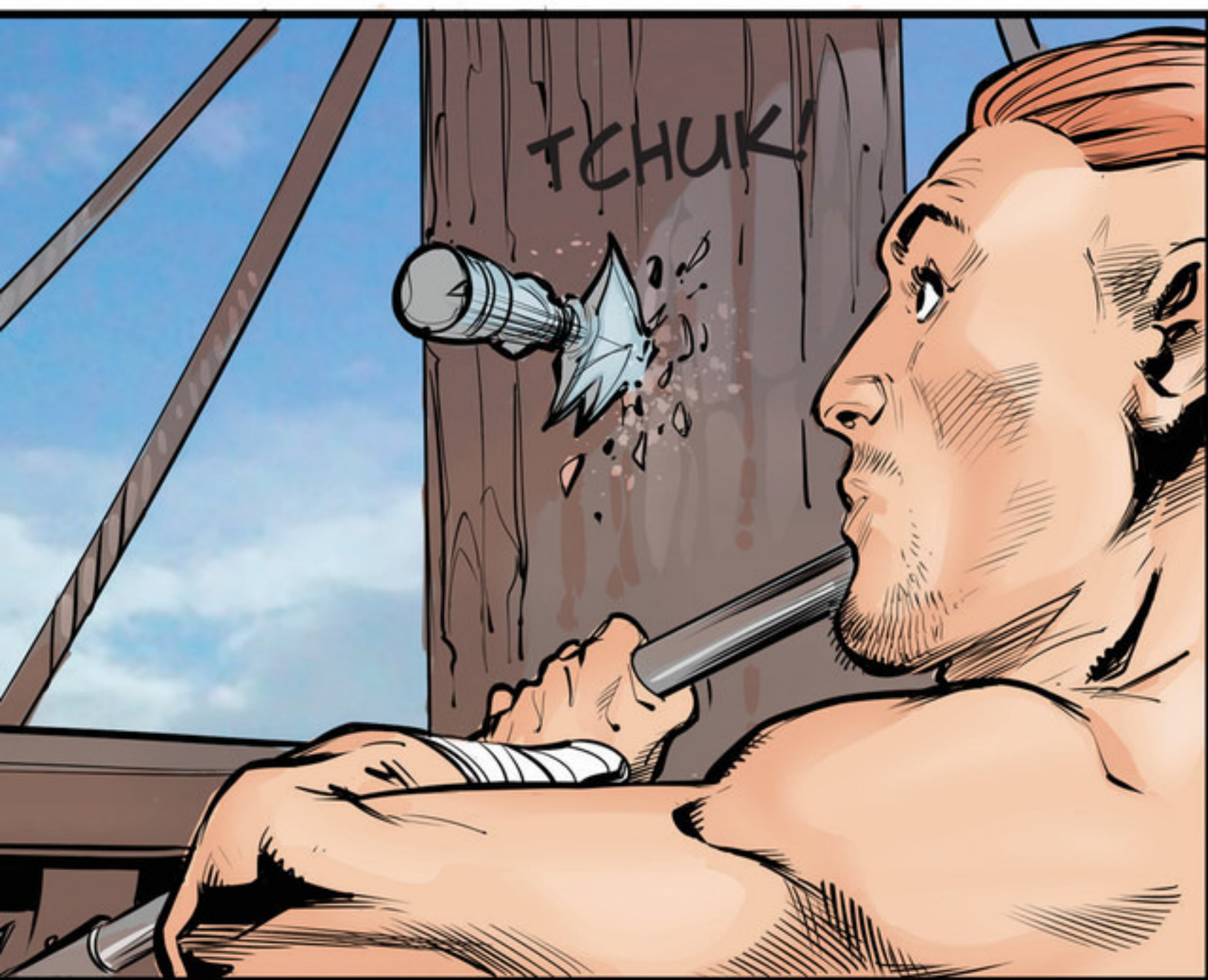
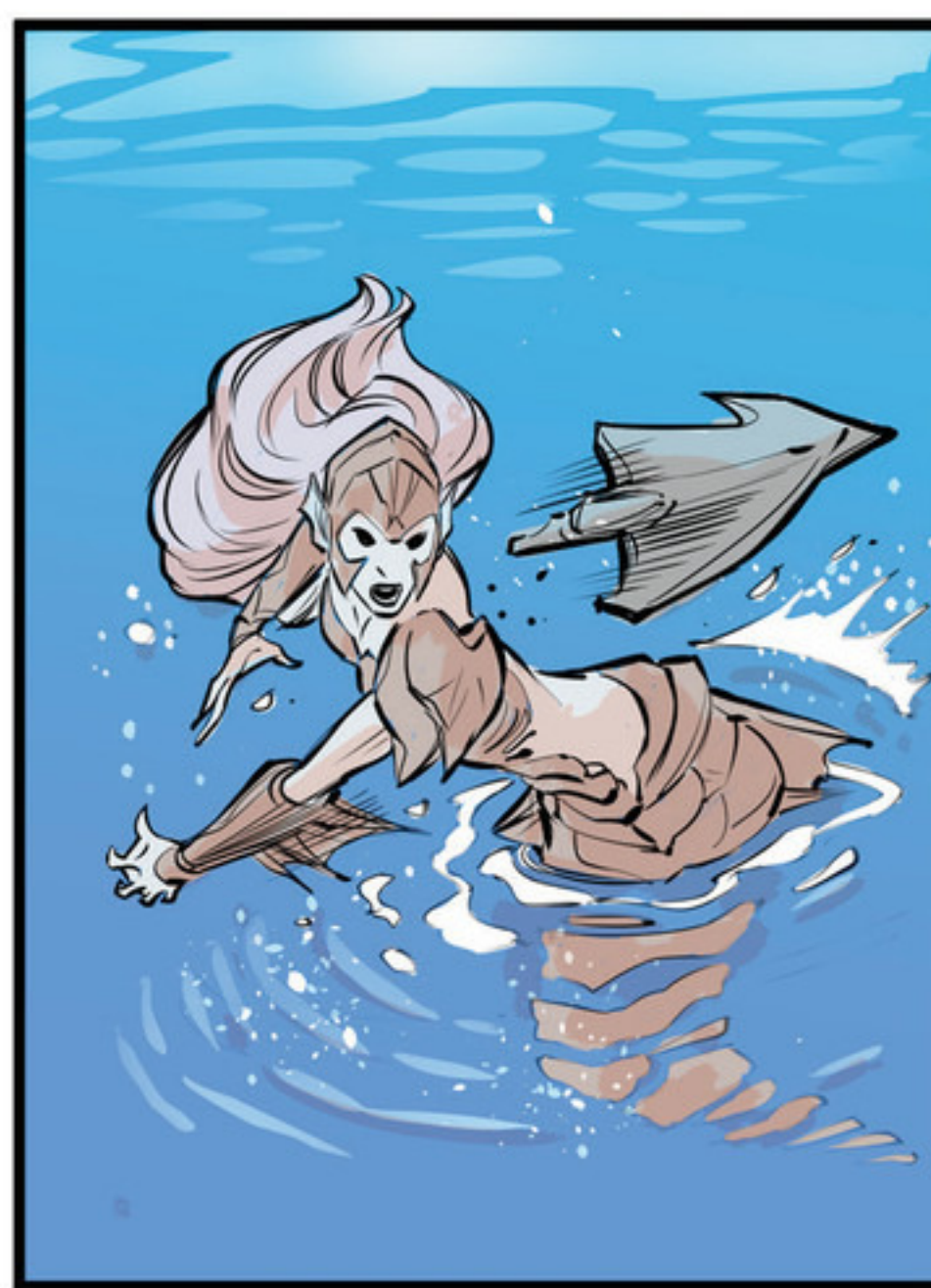
GO ON! GET
OUT OF HERE!



AAAAAH!



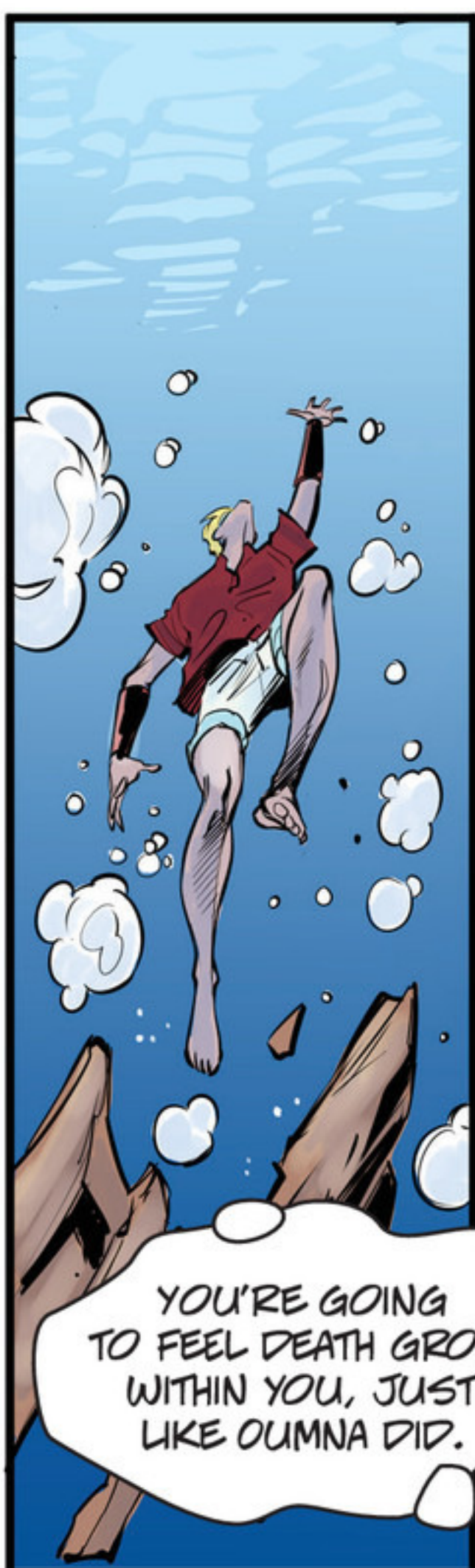
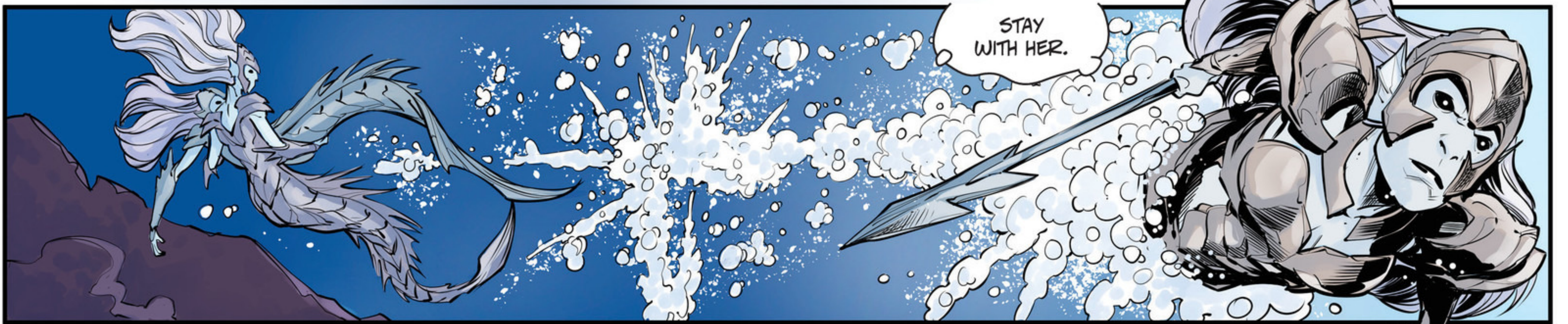
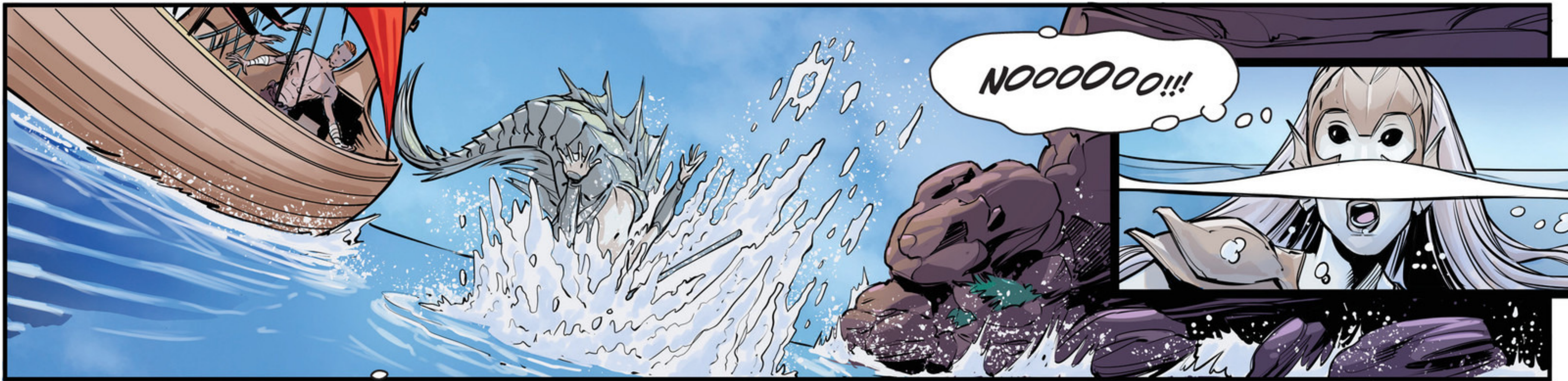
LEAVE HIM
ALONE, SEA RAT!

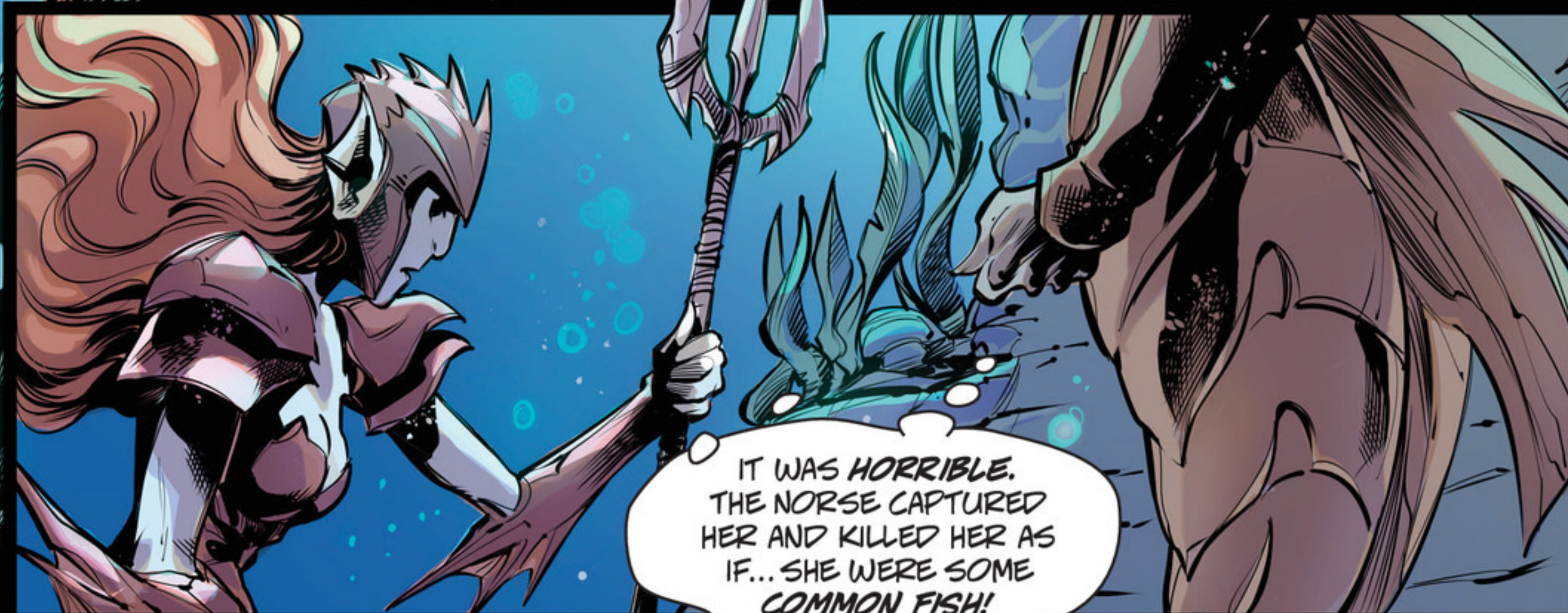
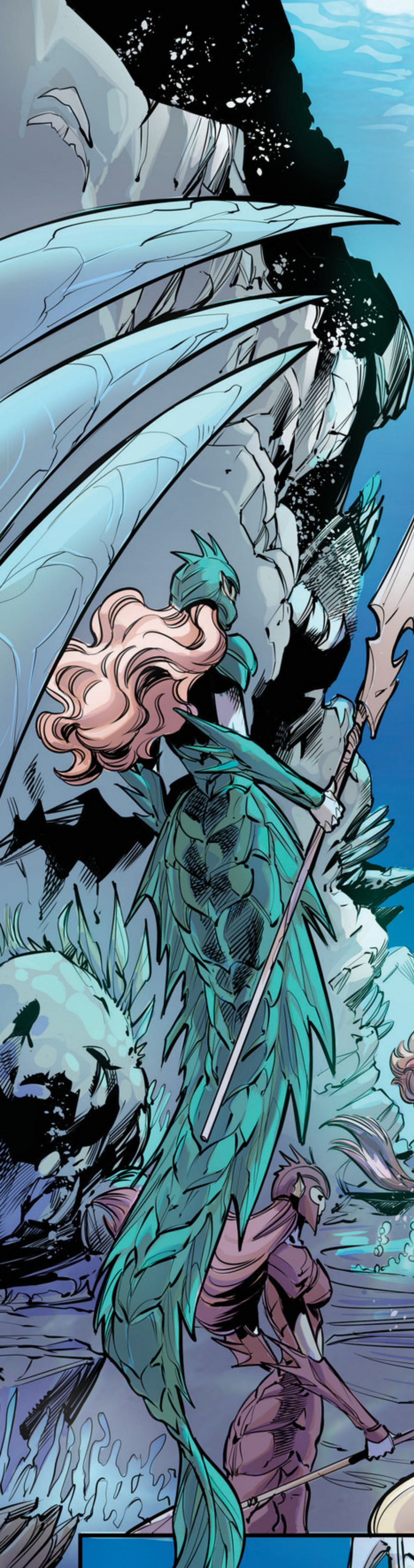


TCHUK!



AAAAAH!





IT WAS HORRIBLE.
THE NORSE CAPTURED
HER AND KILLED HER AS
IF... SHE WERE SOME
COMMON FISH!



MY DEAR OUMNA.
MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER...
SHE WAS SO FULL OF LIFE...

I'M SORRY,
MOTHER. I... THERE
WAS NOTHING I COULD
DO TO STOP THEM...



THIS CAN'T HAPPEN
AGAIN. THE NORSE
HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR
CRIMES. THEIR **BLOOD**
MUST BE SPILLED.



YOU SHOULD
ASK YOUR SISTER
DÚFA TO WAKE
JÖRMUNGANDR.

I SHARE YOUR GRIEF,
BUT I WON'T DO ANYTHING
OF THE SORT. THAT ISN'T THE
ANSWER TO OUR SORROW.

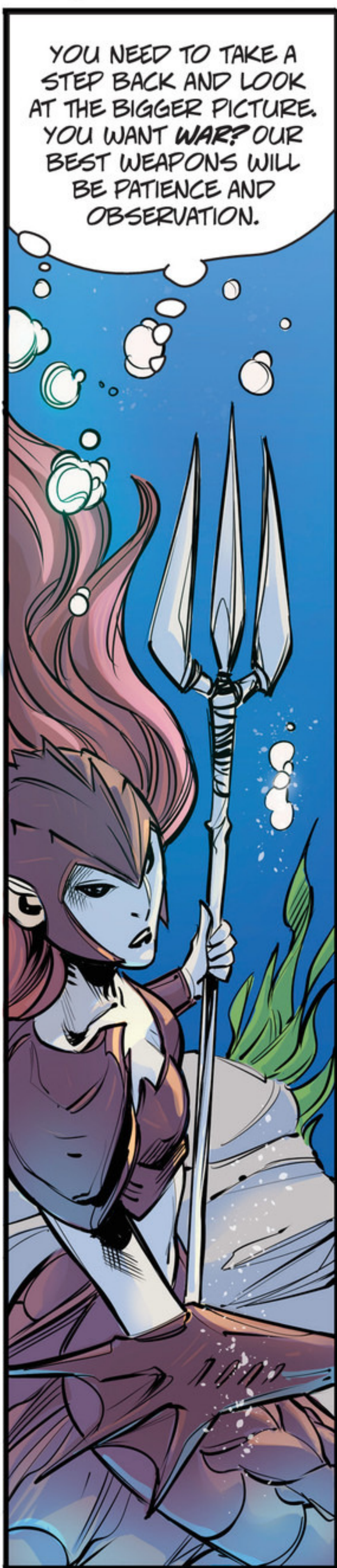


I DON'T UNDERSTAND. ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE BEEN TELLING US ABOUT HOW *CRUEL* THE NORSE ARE... THEY AREN'T AFRAID OF US ANYMORE. AND WHAT'S WORSE, THEY *DESPISE* US. THEY'VE BECOME DANGEROUS.

YOU GIVE THEM TOO MUCH CREDIT, DARLING.



TOO MUCH CREDIT?! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN YOUR EYES? ONCE THEY'VE SLAUGHTERED OUR WHOLE CLAN?



YOU NEED TO TAKE A STEP BACK AND LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE. YOU WANT *WAR*? OUR BEST WEAPONS WILL BE PATIENCE AND OBSERVATION.



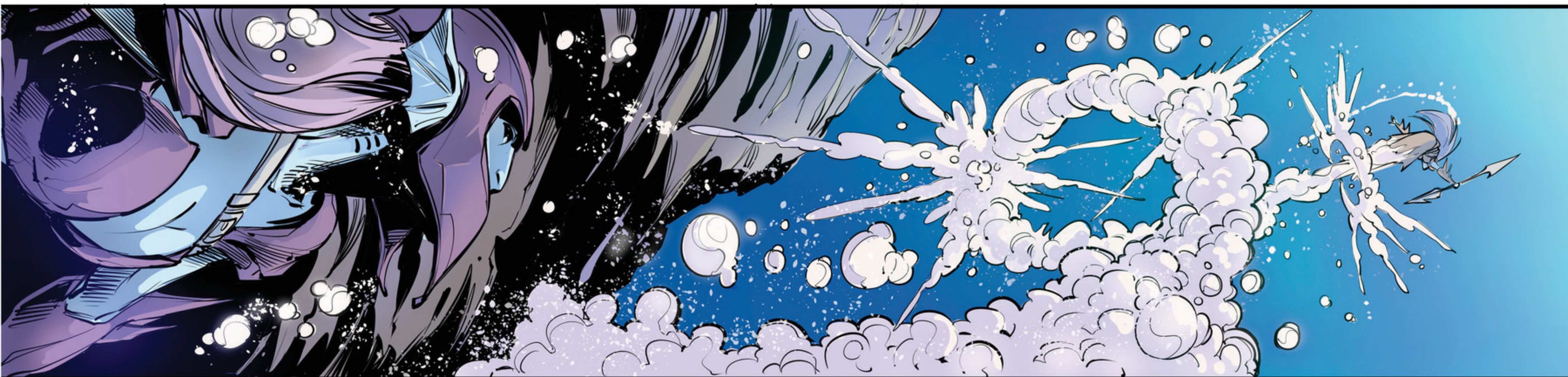
THE NORSE ARE ARROGANT. IT'LL COST THEM. THEY'LL EVENTUALLY END UP DESTROYING EACH OTHER BY FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO BATHE ON THEIR SHORES LONG AFTER THEY'RE GONE.

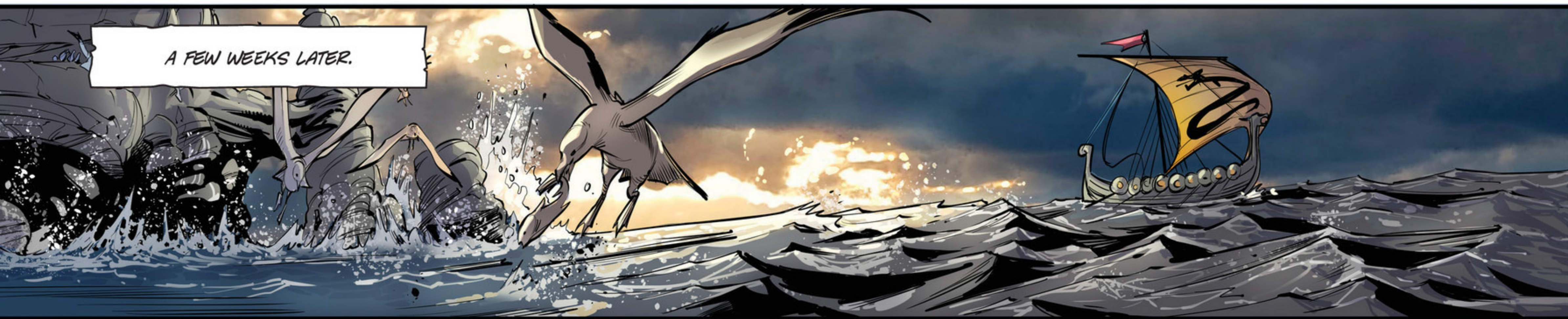


NOW LEAVE ME. I HAVE TO GET READY TO BID OUMNA FAREWELL BEFORE HER JOURNEY TO THE OTHER WORLD.



SO, HOW DOES MOTHER PLAN TO AVENGE OUR SISTER'S DEATH?





A FEW WEEKS LATER.



... WE'LL TAKE THIS CHANNEL.
IF THE GODS ARE WITH
US, WE MAY EVEN ARRIVE
SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO SEE THE SAXON
WOMEN, AREN'T YOU? THEY'RE GOING TO
PAMPER US WHEN THEY SEE THESE FURS
AND AMBER STONES.

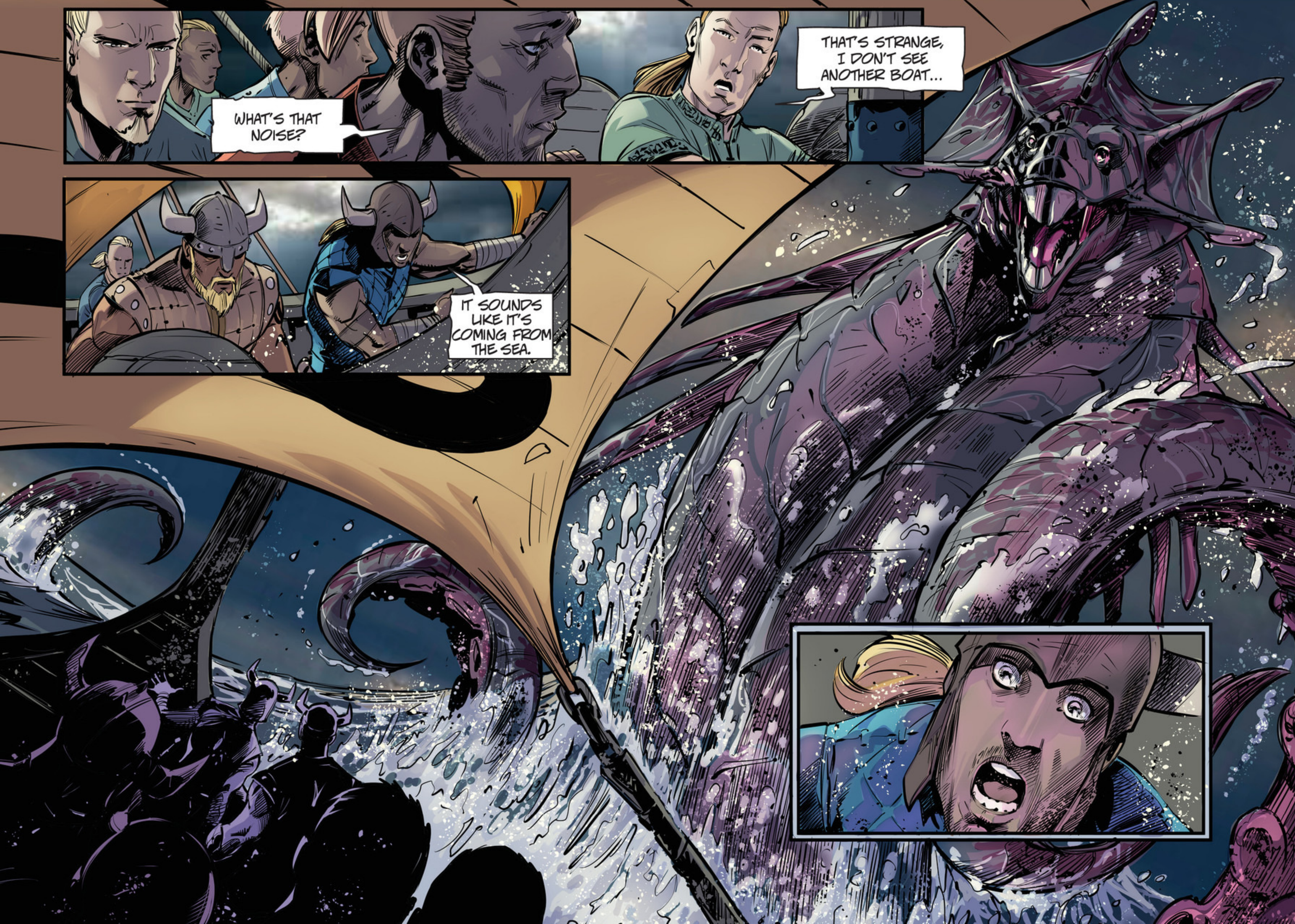


WHAT'S THAT
NOISE?

THAT'S STRANGE,
I DON'T SEE
ANOTHER BOAT...



IT SOUNDS
LIKE IT'S
COMING FROM
THE SEA.





IT'S
JÖRMUNGANDR!
RUN!



BRRRRWWAAAAHHHHH...



IT'S
LEAVING!
WE'RE SAVED!

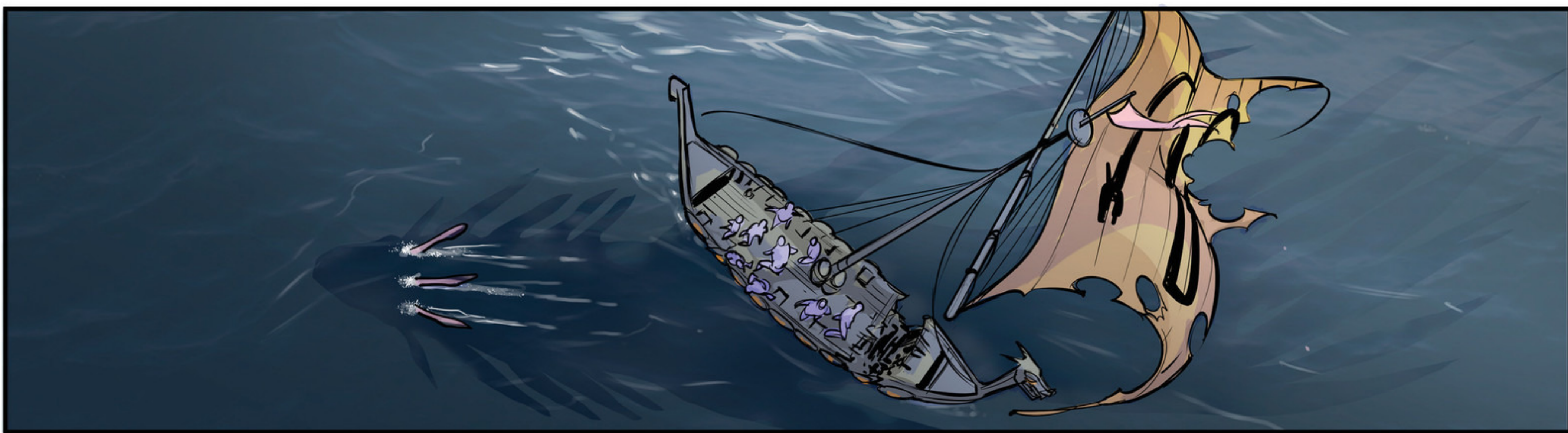
BRRRRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAA...

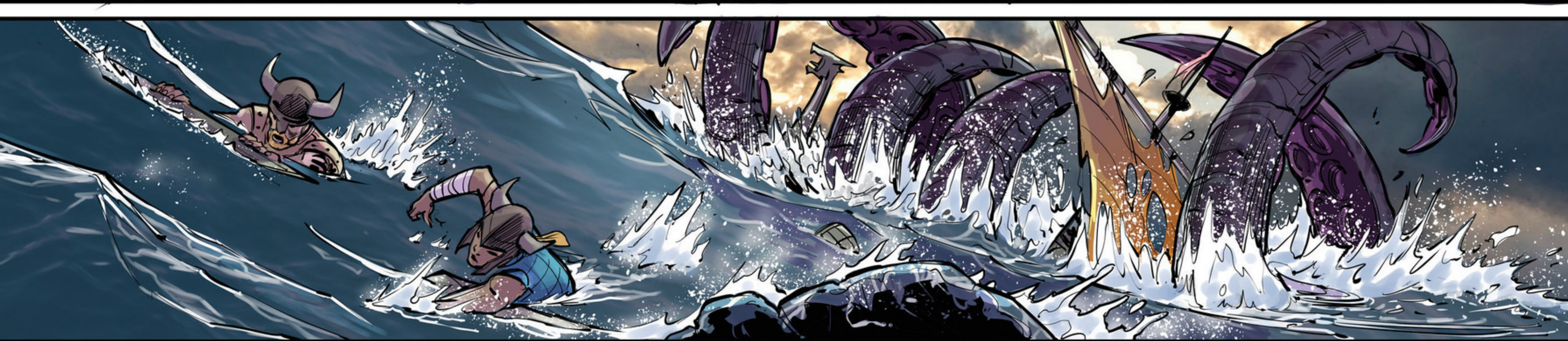


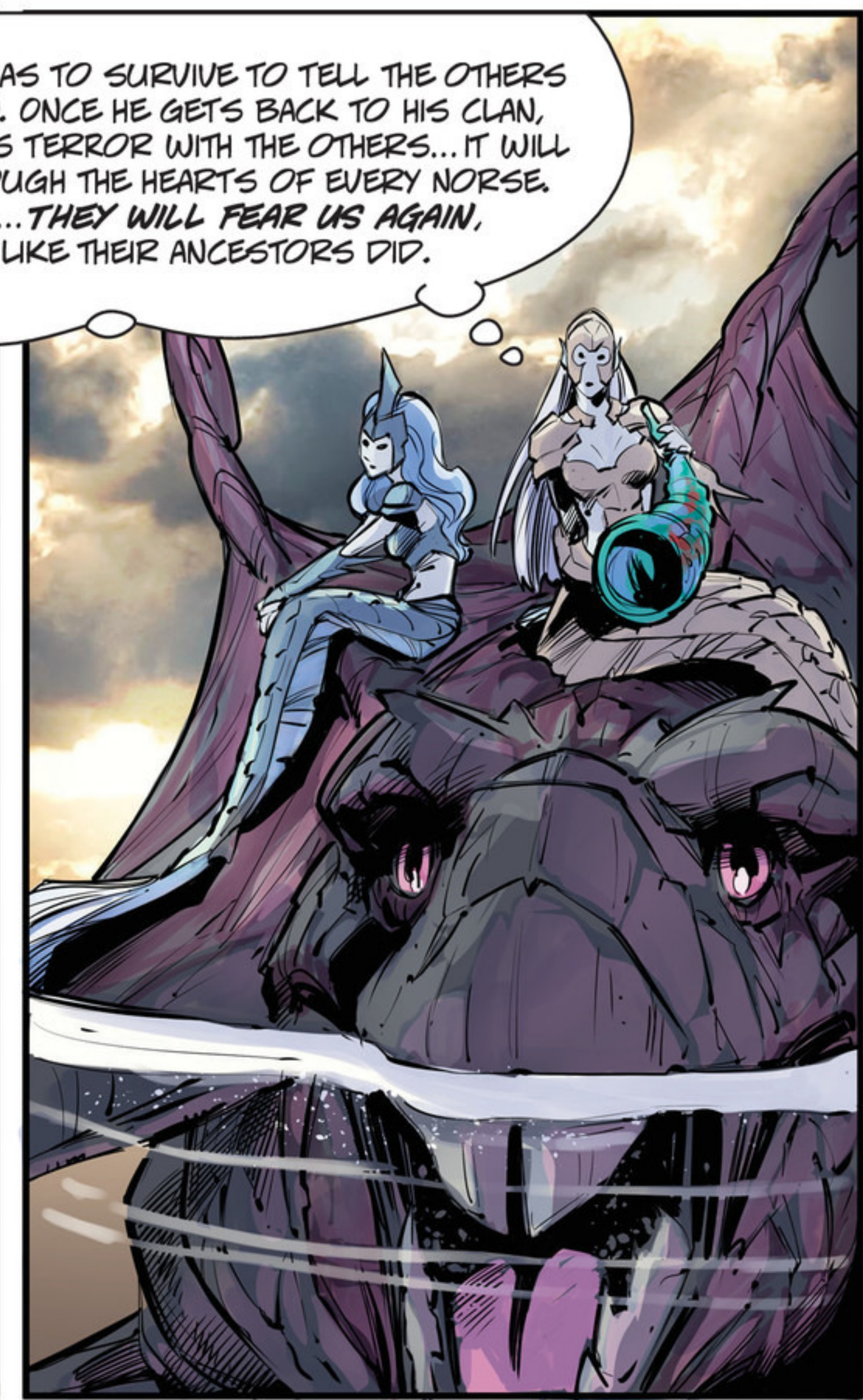
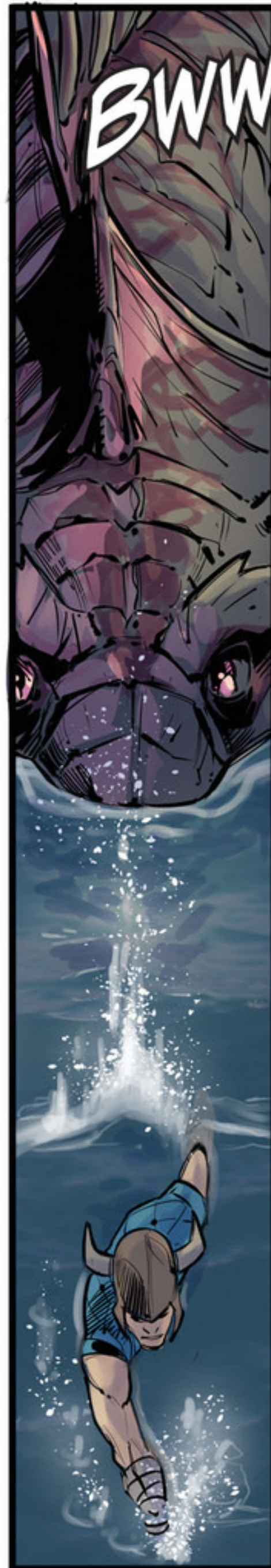
BRRRRRRRRRRROUUUUU...



DID YOU SEE THAT? EVERY
TIME THE SIREN MAKES THAT
SOUND, THE MONSTER CHANGES
DIRECTION. IT'S ALMOST LIKE
SHE'S CONTROLLING IT...

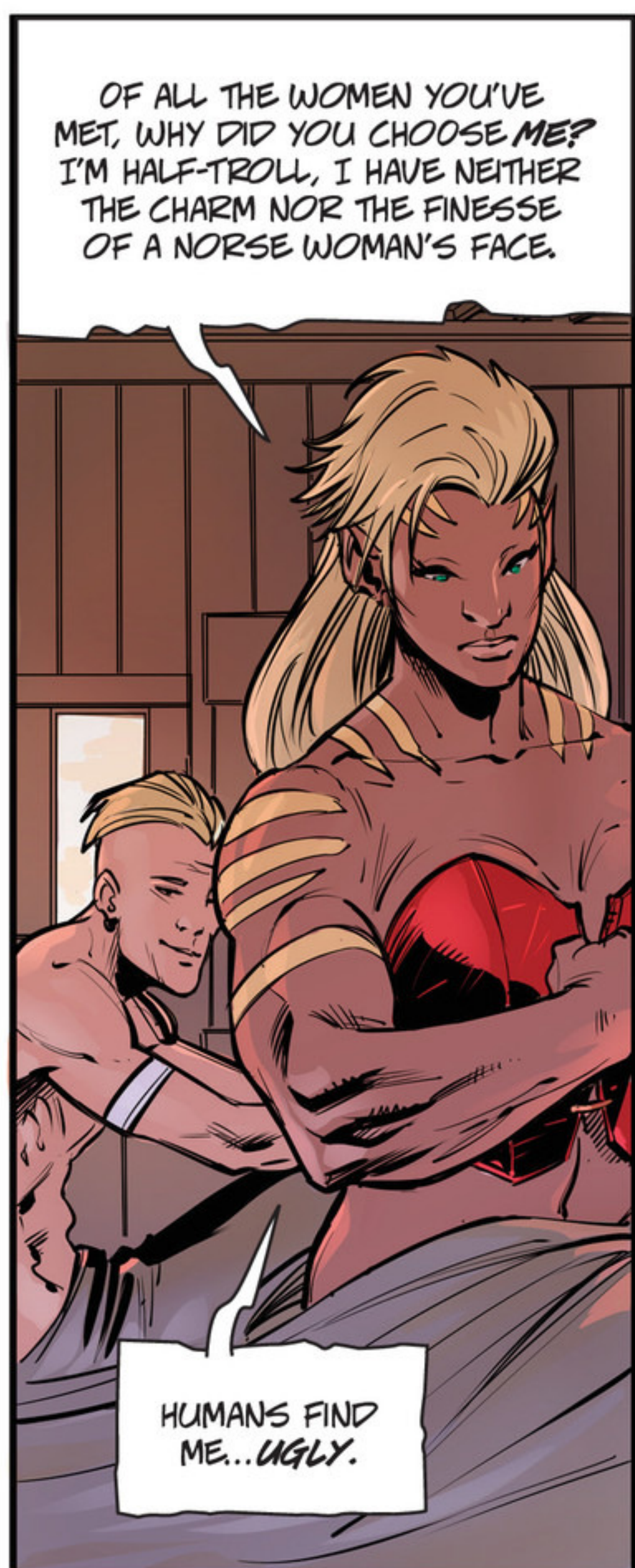






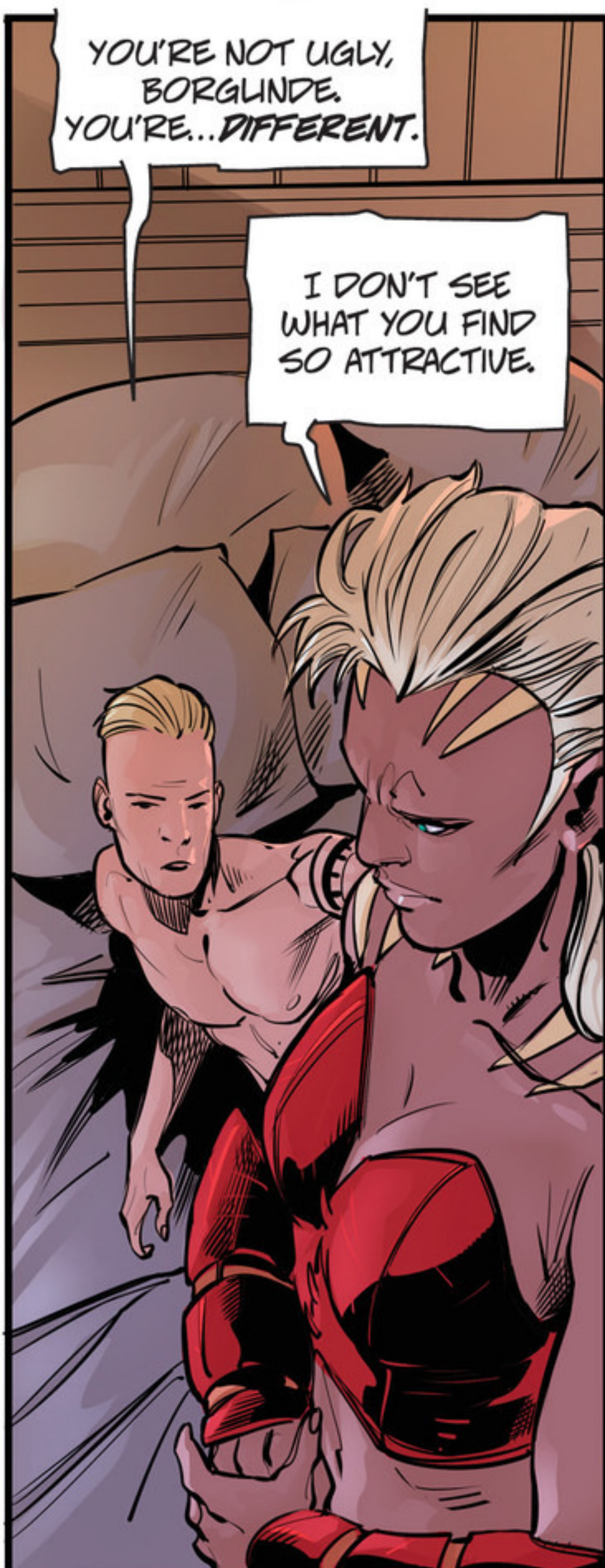


DOES IT BOTHER YOU
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU?



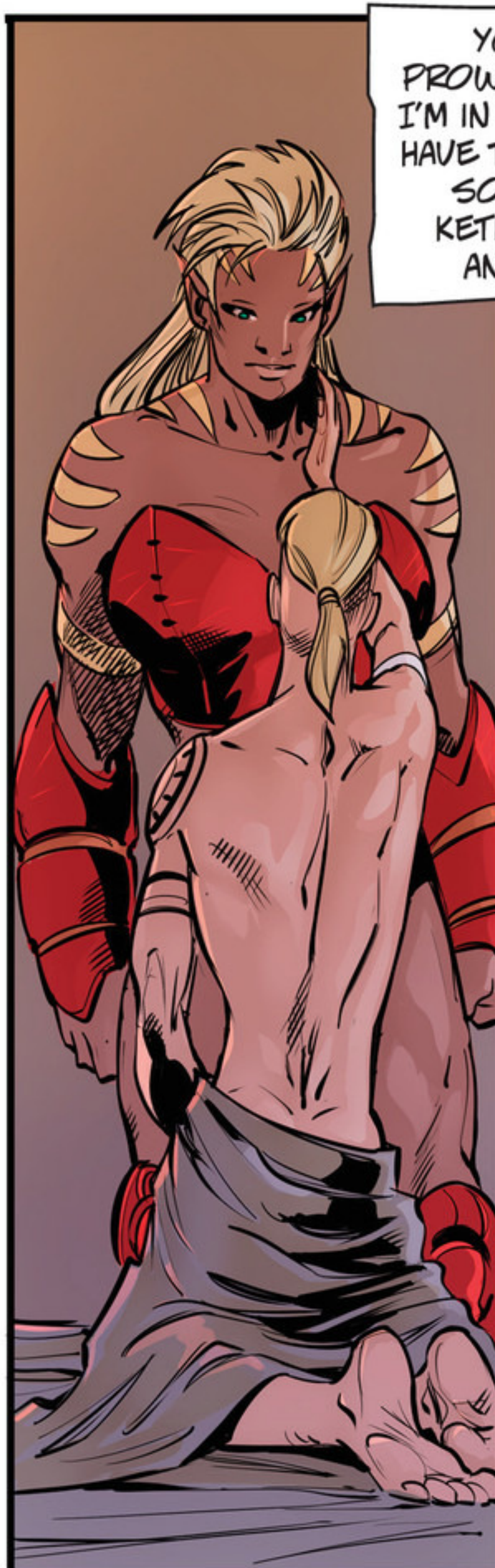
OF ALL THE WOMEN YOU'VE
MET, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?
I'M HALF-TROLL, I HAVE NEITHER
THE CHARM NOR THE FINESSE
OF A NORSE WOMAN'S FACE.

HUMANS FIND
ME...UGLY.

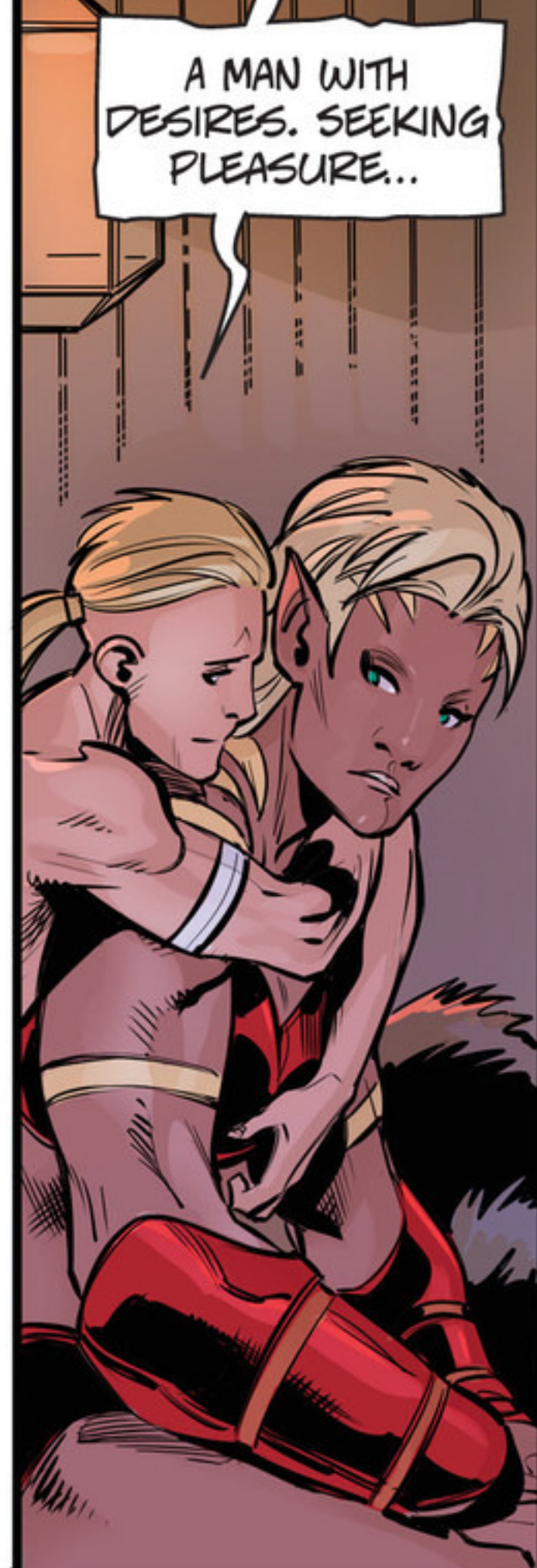


YOU'RE NOT UGLY,
BORGLINDE.
YOU'RE...DIFFERENT.

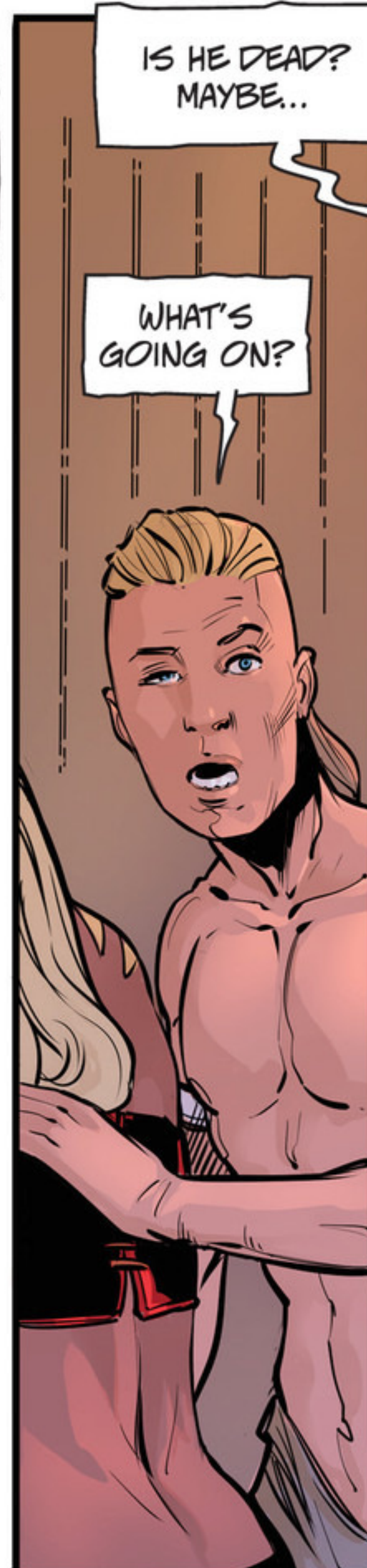
I DON'T SEE
WHAT YOU FIND
SO ATTRACTIVE.



YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR
PROWESS IN BATTLE. AND WHEN
I'M IN YOUR ARMS I NO LONGER
HAVE TO BE INGVALD KETILSSON,
SON AND HEIR OF FROWIN
KETILSSON...I CAN BE JUST
ANOTHER ORDINARY MAN.



A MAN WITH
DESIRES. SEEKING
PLEASURE...



IS HE DEAD?
MAYBE...

WHAT'S
GOING ON?



CALL THE LOEKNIR!

A GIGANTIC MONSTER! WITH LONG SPIKES ON ITS BACK, CLAWS AND ENORMOUS FANGS. JÖRMUNGANDR!

JÖRMUNGANDR! WHAT? YOU MEAN IT'S REAL?!

IT SLAUGHTERED EVERYONE. LIKE IT DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ANY SURVIVORS. AND THEN... THERE WAS A SIREN... IT WAS AS THOUGH SHE WERE CONTROLLING IT BY BLOWING INTO THIS BIG SHELL.

IF THIS MONSTER IS INDEED REAL, IT'S GOING TO BE VERY DANGEROUS TO SAIL. AND NO MORE SAILING MEANS NO MORE FISHING, NO MORE TRADING-- NO MORE PILLAGING.

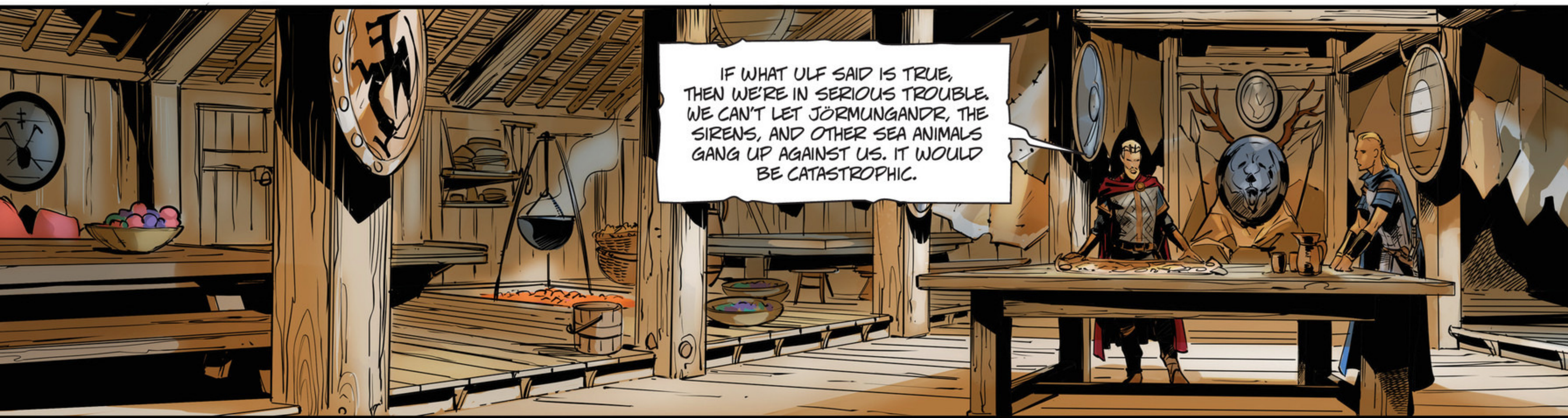
HOW WILL WE GET BY?

TAKE HIM TO MY HOME. HE NEEDS MY CARE.

DON'T WORRY YOURSELF TOO MUCH, KNUIT. ULF ALMOST DIED. HE'S PROBABLY JUST IN SHOCK FROM HAVING LOST HIS ENTIRE CREW.

EVERYBODY GO HOME. I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

COME, MY SON. WE HAVE TO ACT, FAST!



IF WHAT ULF SAID IS TRUE, THEN WE'RE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. WE CAN'T LET JÖRMUNGANDR, THE SIRENS, AND OTHER SEA ANIMALS GANG UP AGAINST US. IT WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC.



IF WE KNEW MORE ABOUT THIS MONSTER, WE COULD PROBABLY FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET RID OF IT...

MAYBE THE TROLLS CAN HELP US AND FIND A WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE HAVFRUES TO APPEASE TENSIONS. TOO MANY OF OUR PEOPLE DIED.

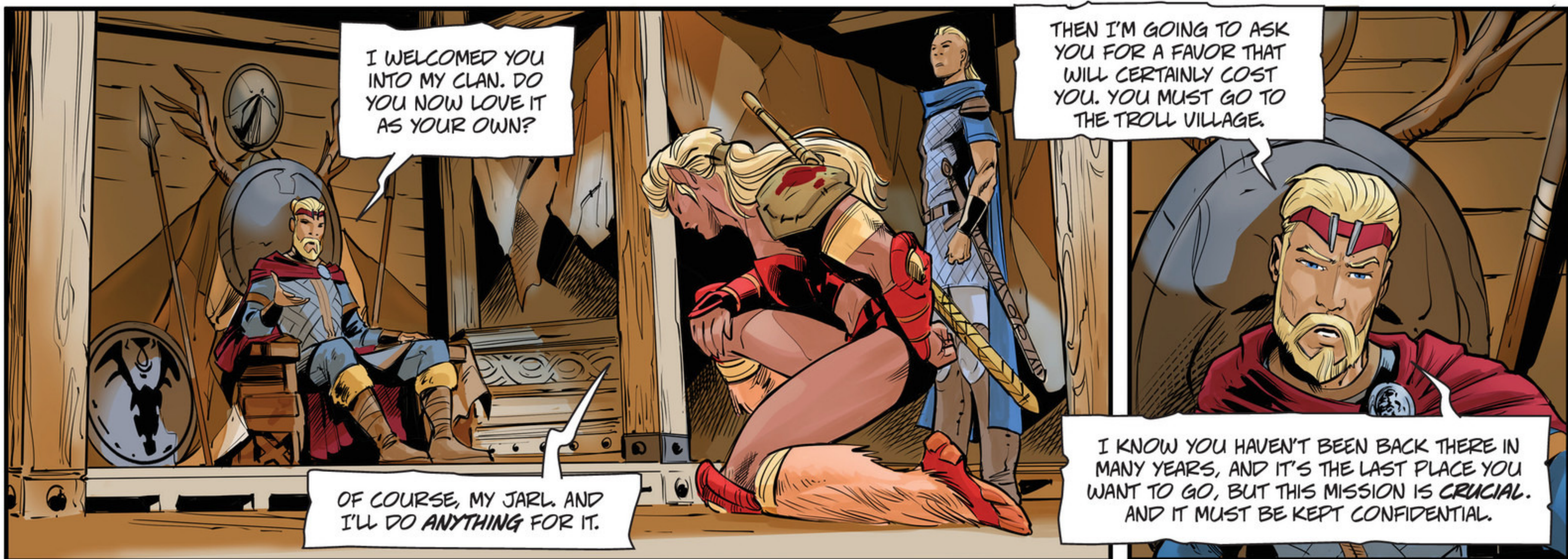


THEIR SPECIES HAS THE BEST KNOWLEDGE OF THE GODS AND MAGIC.



LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT. SEND FOR BORGLINDE.

BUT I DOUBT WE CAN CO-EXIST IN HARMONY WITH THESE SEA ABOMINATIONS.



I WELCOMED YOU INTO MY CLAN. DO YOU NOW LOVE IT AS YOUR OWN?

OF COURSE, MY JARL AND I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR IT.

THEN I'M GOING TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR THAT WILL CERTAINLY COST YOU. YOU MUST GO TO THE TROLL VILLAGE.

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK THERE IN MANY YEARS, AND IT'S THE LAST PLACE YOU WANT TO GO, BUT THIS MISSION IS CRUCIAL. AND IT MUST BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.



I WOULD SOONER DIE THAN REVEAL OUR SECRETS.



VERY GOOD. IN THAT CASE, YOU AND INGVALD WILL LEAVE TOMORROW TO FIND OUT HOW TO KILL JÖRMUNGANDR.

I WON'T RETURN WITHOUT THE ANSWER.



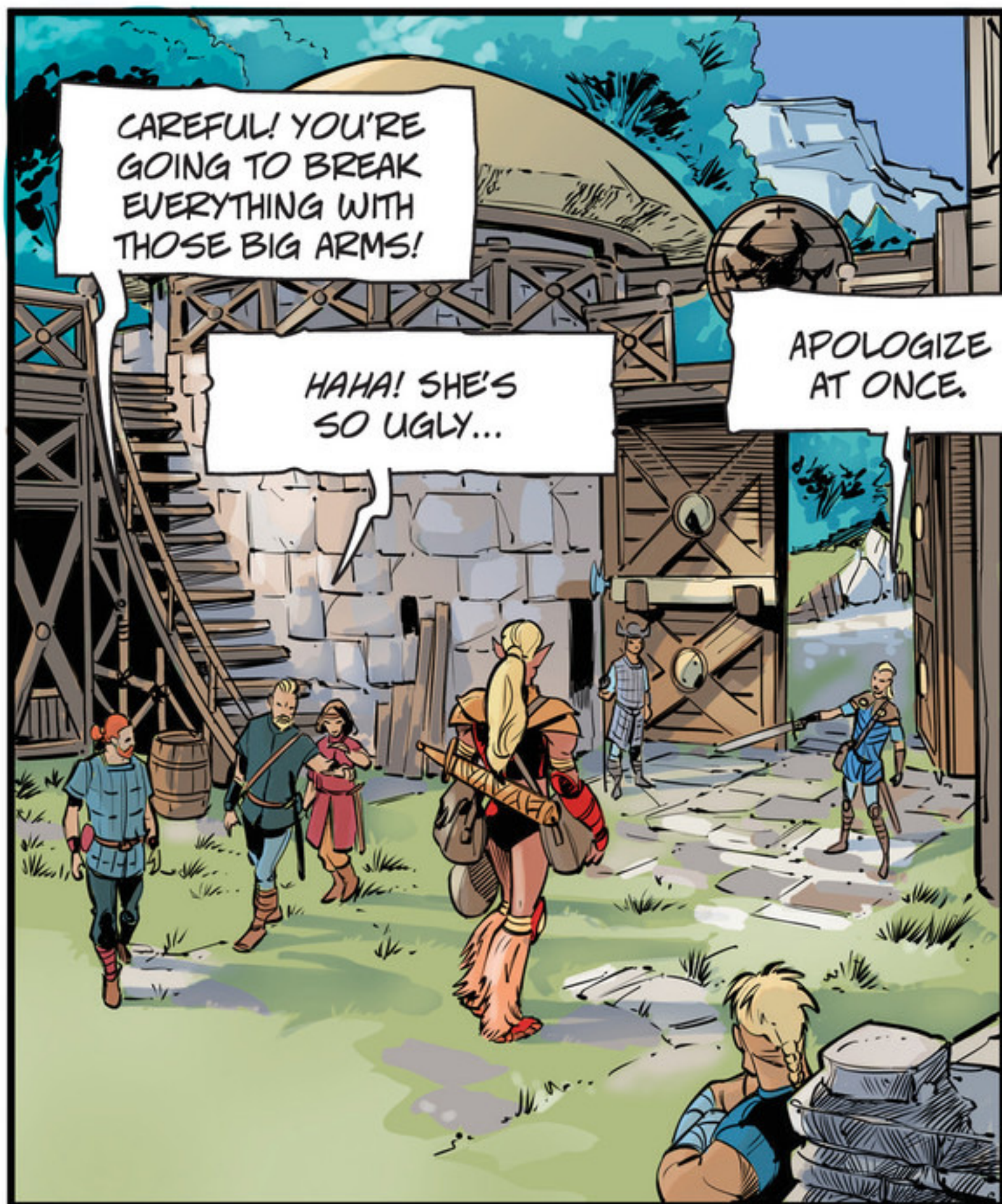
LOOK AFTER MY SON. HE'S MY ONLY HEIR.

HE'S SMART AS A WHIP, BUT HE LACKS SKILL AS A WARRIOR.

I KNOW.



THE NEXT DAY.



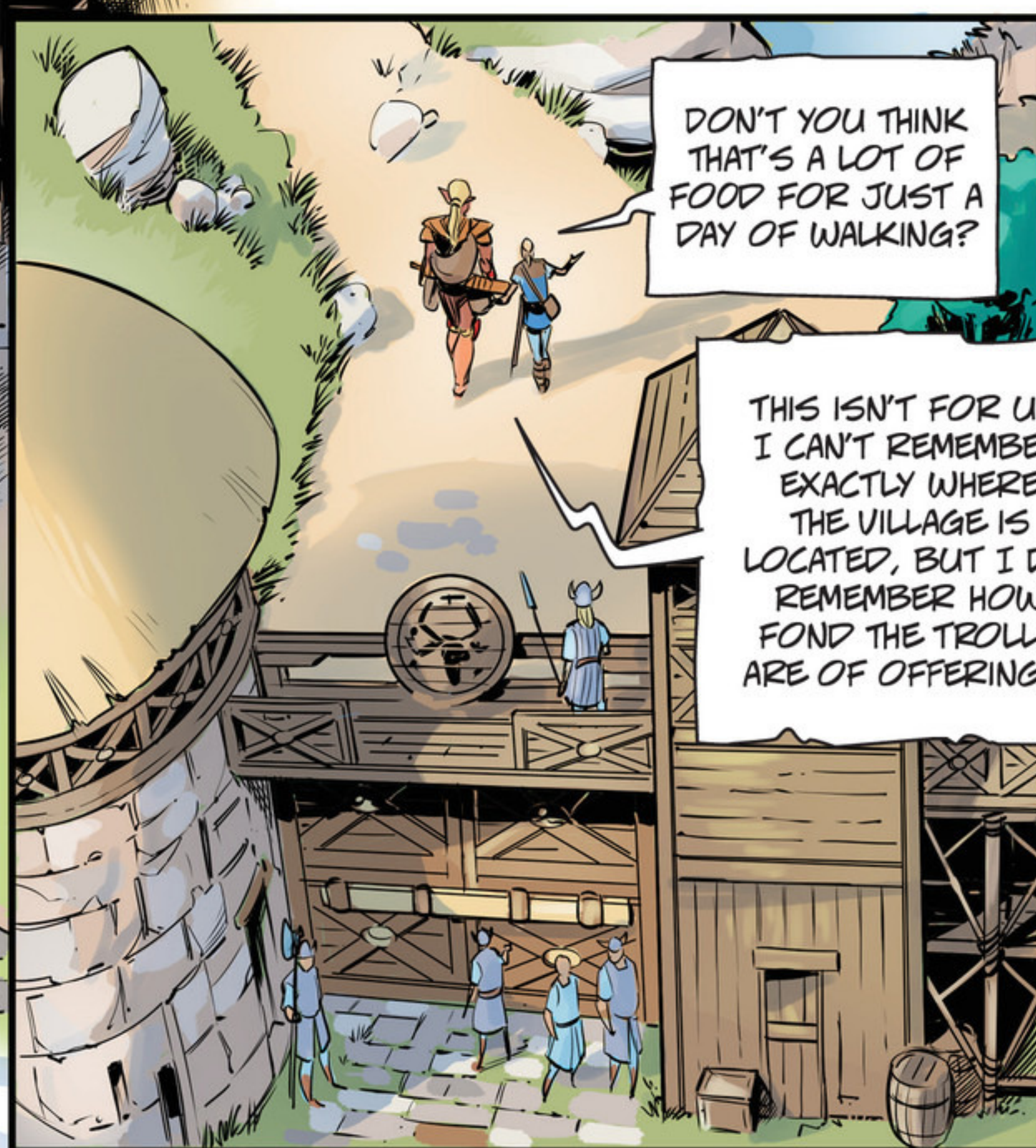
CAREFUL! YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK EVERYTHING WITH THOSE BIG ARMS!

HABA! SHE'S SO UGLY...

APOLOGIZE AT ONCE.

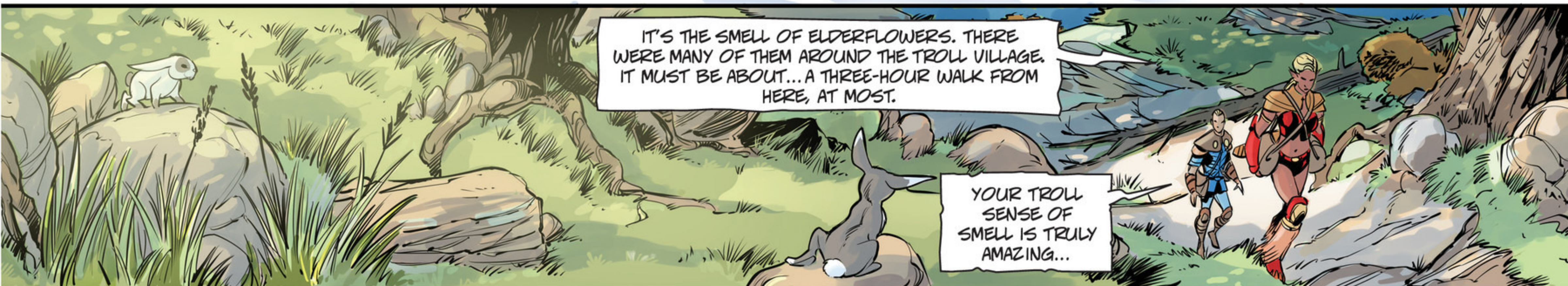


IT'S POINTLESS. YOU AND YOUR FATHER ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO RESPECT ME. AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME. LET ME PUT THIS AWAY AND WE CAN GET GOING, OKAY?



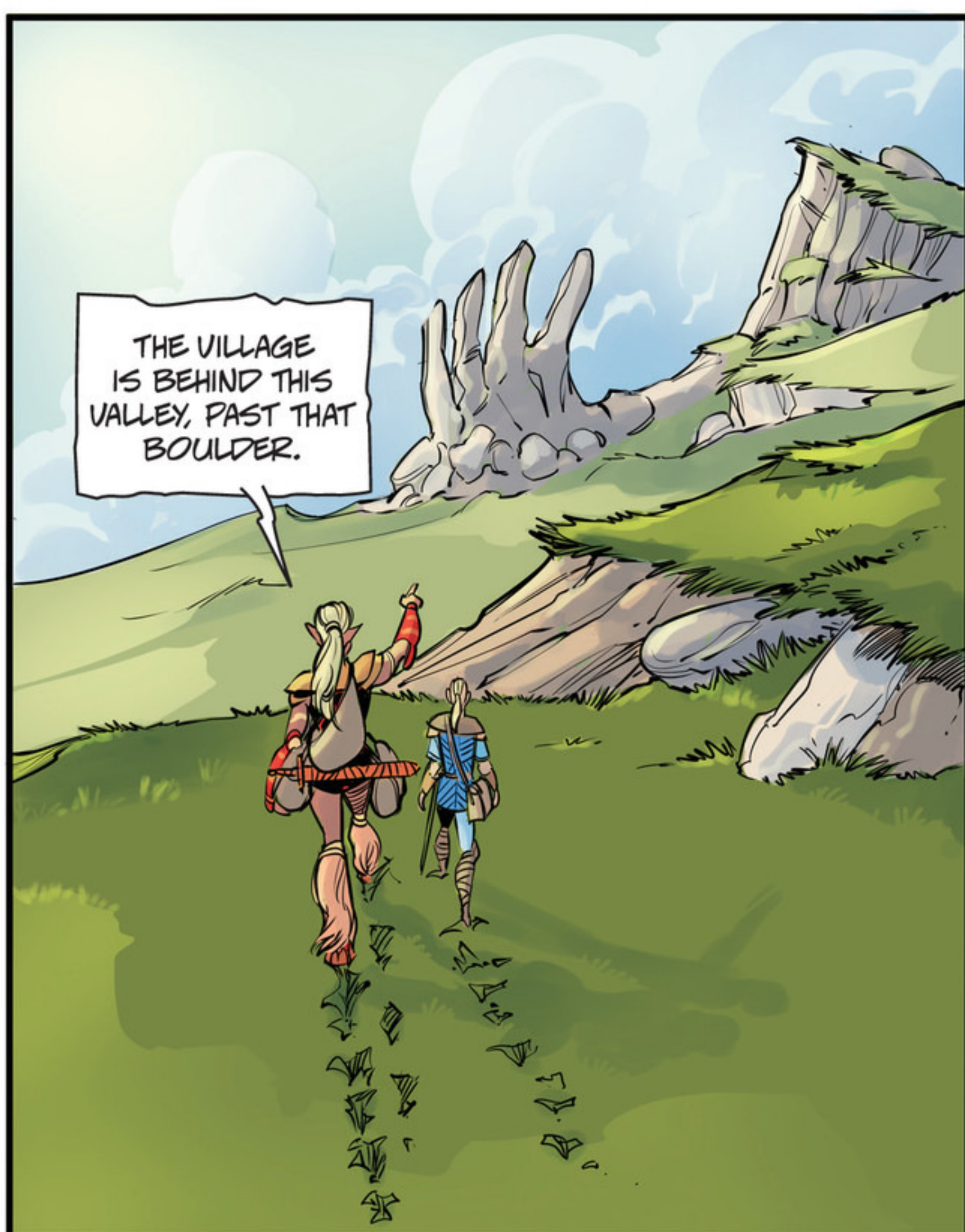
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LOT OF FOOD FOR JUST A DAY OF WALKING?

THIS ISN'T FOR US. I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHERE THE VILLAGE IS LOCATED, BUT I DO REMEMBER HOW FOND THE TROLLS ARE OF OFFERINGS.



IT'S THE SMELL OF ELDERFLOWERS. THERE WERE MANY OF THEM AROUND THE TROLL VILLAGE. IT MUST BE ABOUT... A THREE-HOUR WALK FROM HERE, AT MOST.

YOUR TROLL SENSE OF SMELL IS TRULY AMAZING...



THE VILLAGE IS BEHIND THIS VALLEY, PAST THAT BOULDER.



NOOOO!



HEEEEEEEELP!

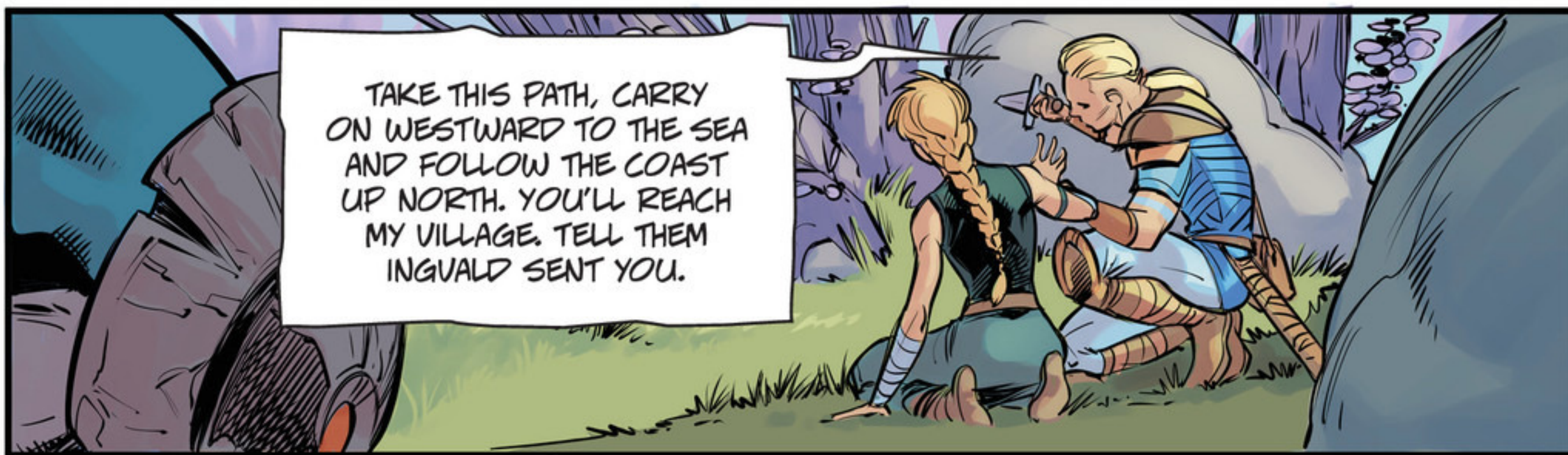


GET OFF ME, YOU BIG DUMMY!

BUT HONEY, I THOUGHT...



IN YOUR DREAMS, IMBECILE!



TAKE THIS PATH, CARRY ON WESTWARD TO THE SEA AND FOLLOW THE COAST UP NORTH. YOU'LL REACH MY VILLAGE. TELL THEM INGVALD SENT YOU.



ARE YOU REALLY ATTACKING ME TO DEFEND A NORSE? DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT THESE PEOPLE DESPISE YOU? THEY'LL GET RID OF YOU THE FIRST CHANCE THEY GET.

FEW NORSE RESPECT ME, BUT ALL TROLLS DESPISE ME.



YOU'RE WRONG. MAYBE THOSE IN THE VILLAGE DON'T RESPECT YOU, BUT THERE'S A CAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST WHERE WE DON'T JUDGE OTHERS. WE'RE FREE. YOU COULD JOIN US.



YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER. GET ON YOUR WAY BEFORE I DECIDE TO PUNISH YOU FOR YOUR CRIMES.



NEVER GET TOO COCKY WITH A TROLL.



WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVER TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR VILLAGE?

IT WASN'T EXACTLY THE BEST PART OF MY LIFE.

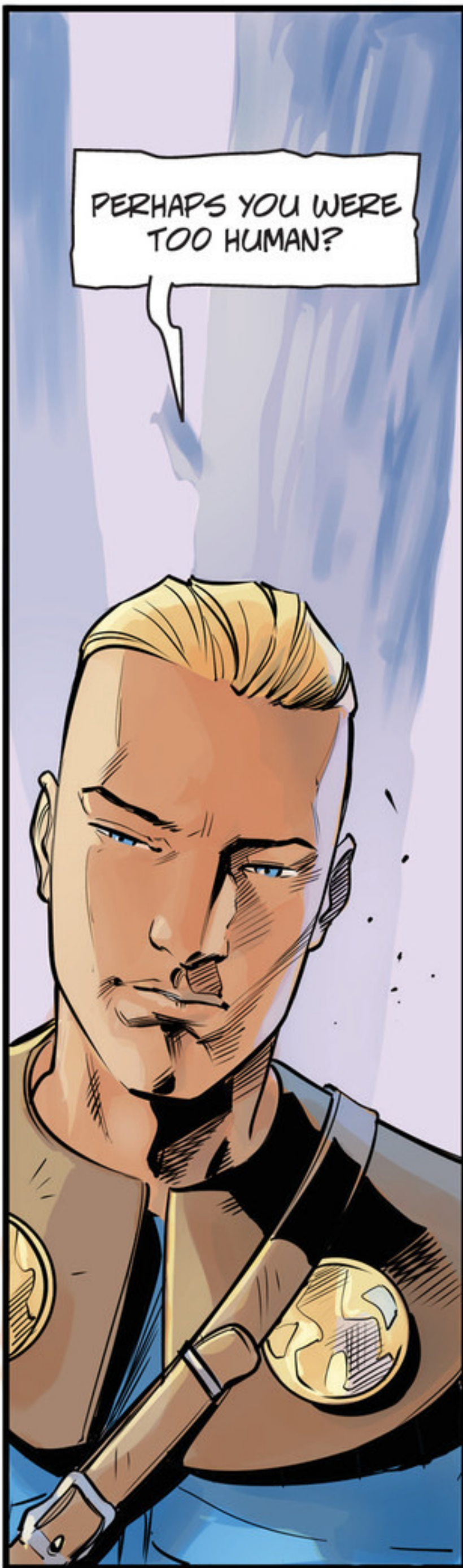


MY MOTHER, A TROLL, WAS CAPTURED BY NORSE. ONE OF THEM IMPREGNATED HER. SHE MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND RETURN TO THE TROLL VILLAGE. THAT'S WHERE SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ME.



BUT AS I GREW UP, I BECAME DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

THE TROLLS ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS TOO SMALL, TOO FRAGILE, TOO SENTIMENTAL.



PERHAPS YOU WERE TOO HUMAN?

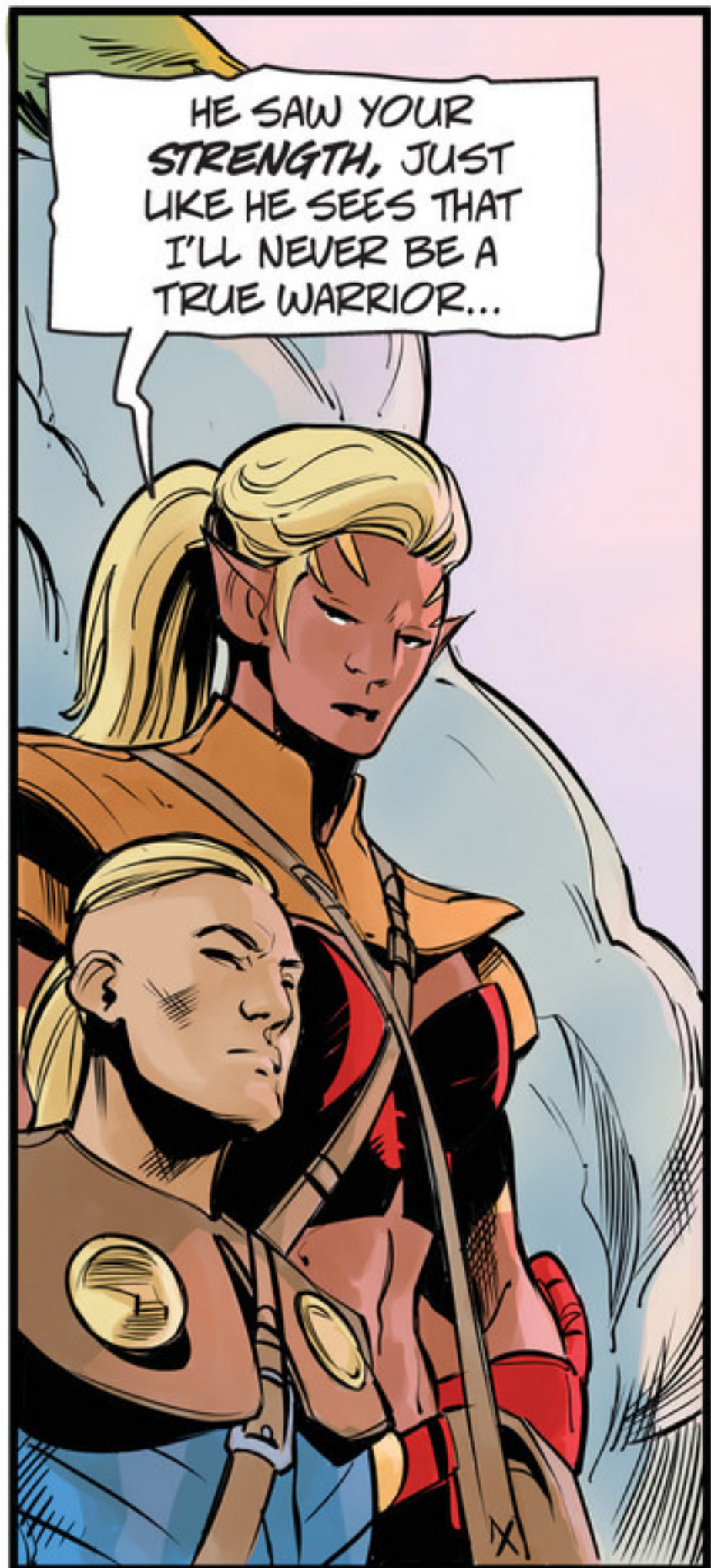


PERHAPS...IN ANY CASE, IT WAS UNBEARABLE. SO, I LEFT. THAT'S WHEN I RAN INTO YOUR NORSE CLAN LOOTING A VILLAGE. THEY WERE KILLING, RAPING, DRINKING... SOME DRUNK MEN STARTED HITTING ME. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT BACK THEN. I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE.

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WENT THROUGH ALL THAT.



IT'S ALL IN THE PAST. WHAT MATTERS TO ME IS THAT YOUR FATHER SAVED MY LIFE AND ALLOWED ME TO BECOME A WARRIOR.



HE SAW YOUR **STRENGTH**, JUST LIKE HE SEES THAT I'LL NEVER BE A TRUE WARRIOR...



IT DOESN'T MATTER. I FEEL STRONG BY YOUR SIDE.



HEY, THE
MIDGET'S BACK!



WELL, LOOK AT THAT, SHE
HASN'T GROWN AN INCH!

I'LL SAY, MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU
HAD SOME VEGETABLES! HAHA!



DON'T LOOK THE VILLAGE
CHIEF IN THE EYES
WHEN YOU GIVE HIM THE
OFFERINGS. HE MIGHT
TAKE IT AS AN INSULT.



GOOD EVENING, SCARGRED.
WE HAVE COME TO SEEK
YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND
THAT OF YOUR ANCESTORS.



PIKE IS MY FAVORITE FISH. YOU HAVE
A VERY GOOD MEMORY, BORGLINDE.
DO YOU MISS THE VILLAGE MORE
THAN YOU'D LIKE TO ADMIT?



INGVALD, SON OF JARL FROWIN, WOULD LIKE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT JÖRMUNGANDR.

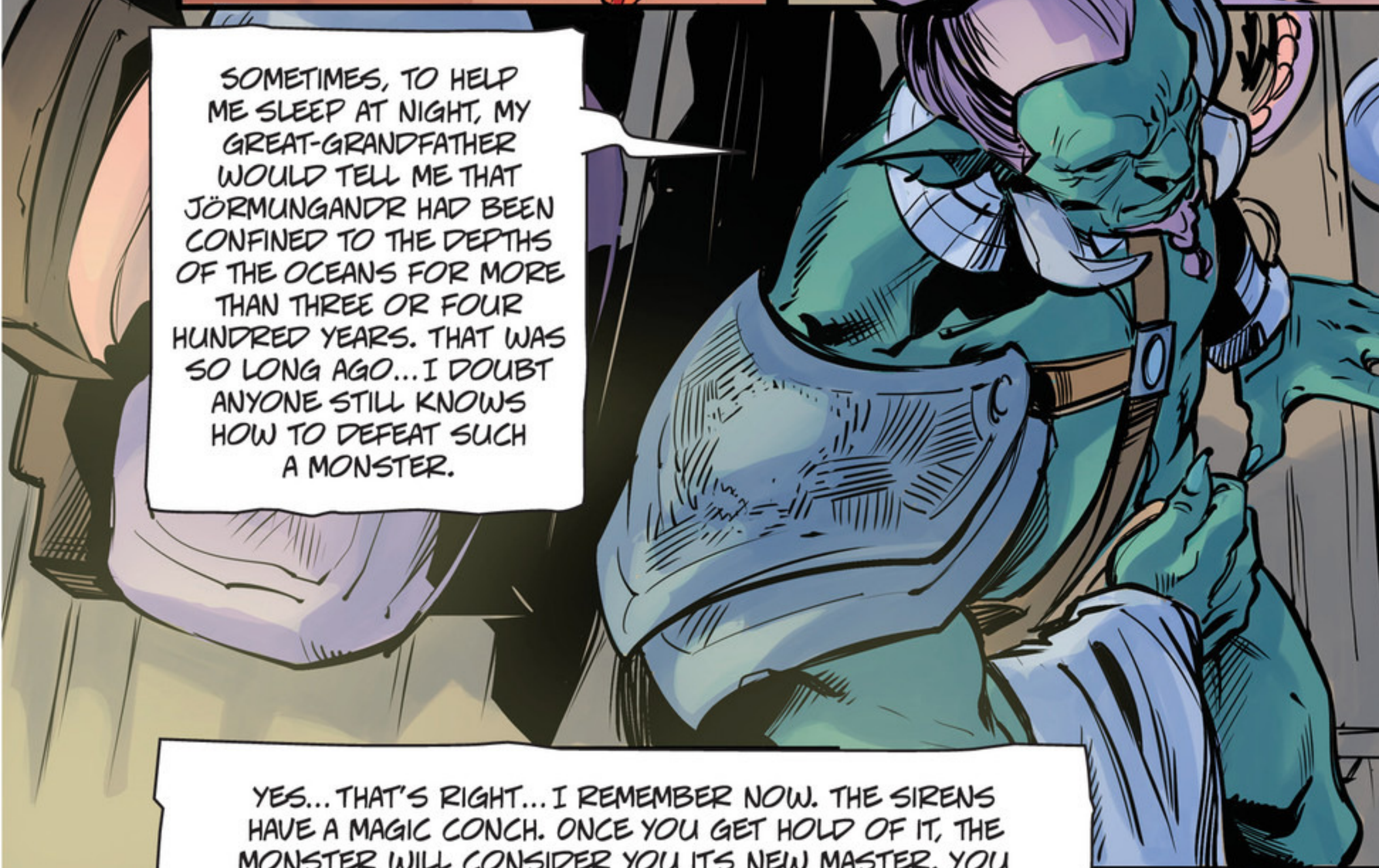
IT ATTACKED ONE OF OUR SHIPS. ONLY ONE MAN MANAGED TO ESCAPE.



WELL, THAT'S UNFORTUNATE. IF JÖRMUNGANDR IS RELEASED, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SAIL ANYMORE.



DID YOUR ANCESTORS KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT THIS SEA MONSTER?



SOMETIMES, TO HELP ME SLEEP AT NIGHT, MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WOULD TELL ME THAT JÖRMUNGANDR HAD BEEN CONFINED TO THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEANS FOR MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. THAT WAS SO LONG AGO... I DOUBT ANYONE STILL KNOWS HOW TO DEFEAT SUCH A MONSTER.

A SIREN WAS CONTROLLING IT BY BLOWING INTO A SHELL.



YES... THAT'S RIGHT... I REMEMBER NOW. THE SIRENS HAVE A MAGIC CONCH. ONCE YOU GET HOLD OF IT, THE MONSTER WILL CONSIDER YOU ITS NEW MASTER. YOU COULD EVEN TURN JÖRMUNGANDR AGAINST THEM.



HOW CAN WE STEAL IT FROM THEM? WATER ISN'T OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.



WHAT?!

THANK YOU, SCARGRED. YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP TO US.

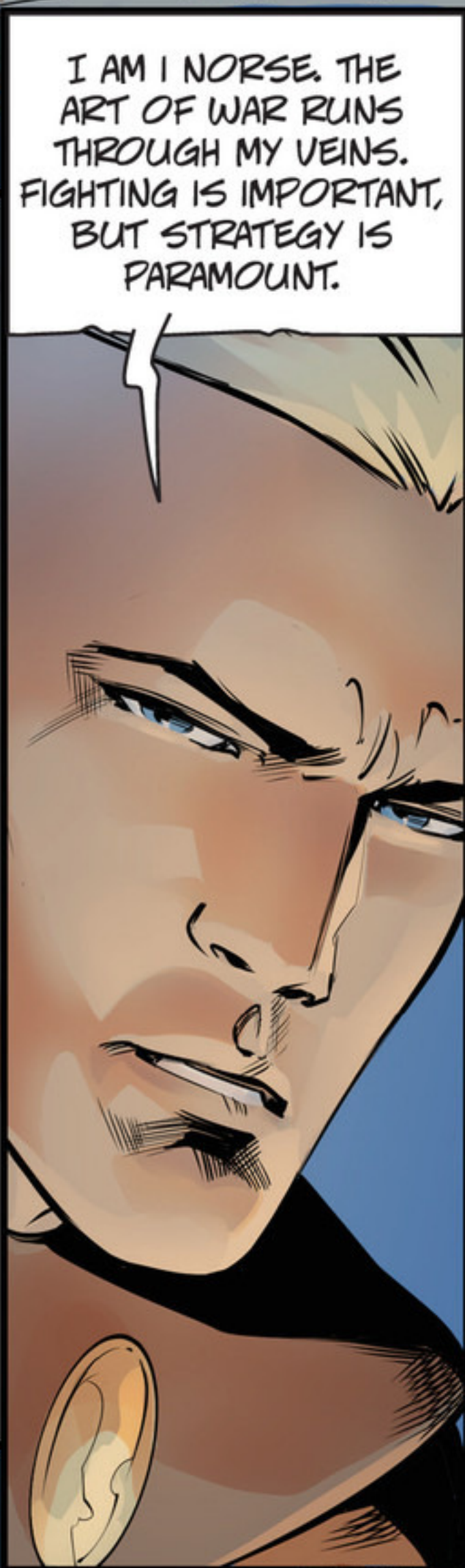
ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, DEAR BORGLUNDE... THE SURFACE ISN'T JÖRMUNGANDR'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, EITHER. AND THAT'S ITS WEAKNESS... COME BACK WITH MORE PIKES AND THE SOLUTION WILL BECOME APPARENT. YOU'LL SEE.



WHAT ARE
YOU SMILING
ABOUT?



I THINK I HAVE
AN IDEA IN ORDER
TO GET THE
CONCH BACK. OR
AT LEAST TO
DISORIENT THE
MONSTER.



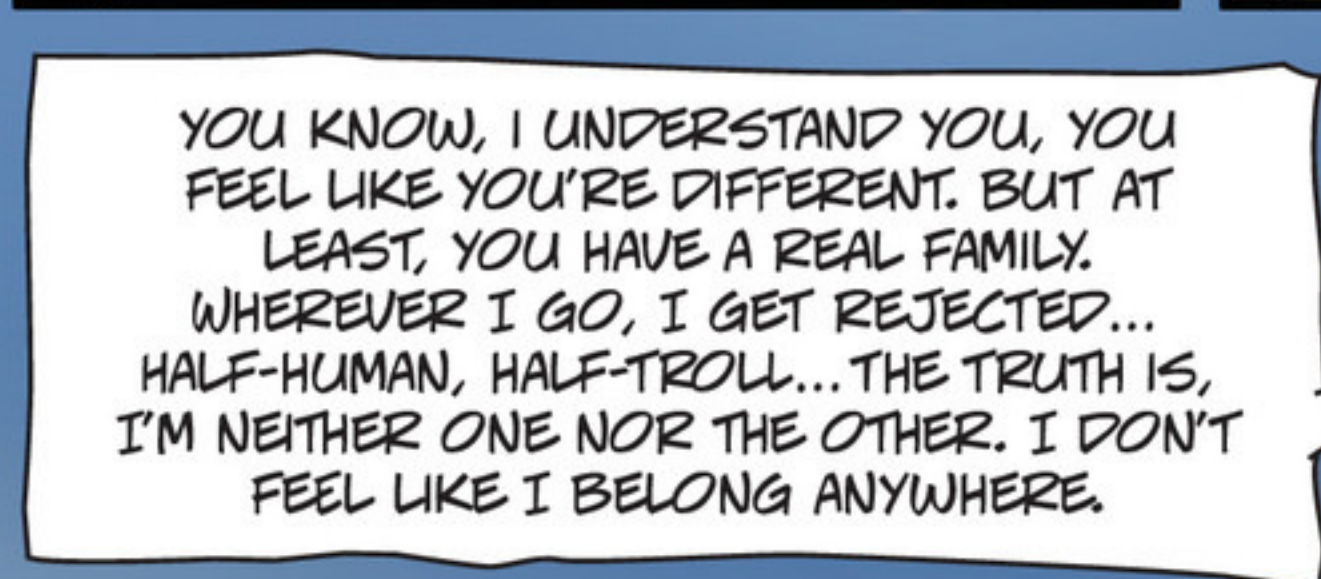
I AM I NORSE. THE
ART OF WAR RUNS
THROUGH MY VEINS.
FIGHTING IS IMPORTANT,
BUT STRATEGY IS
PARAMOUNT.



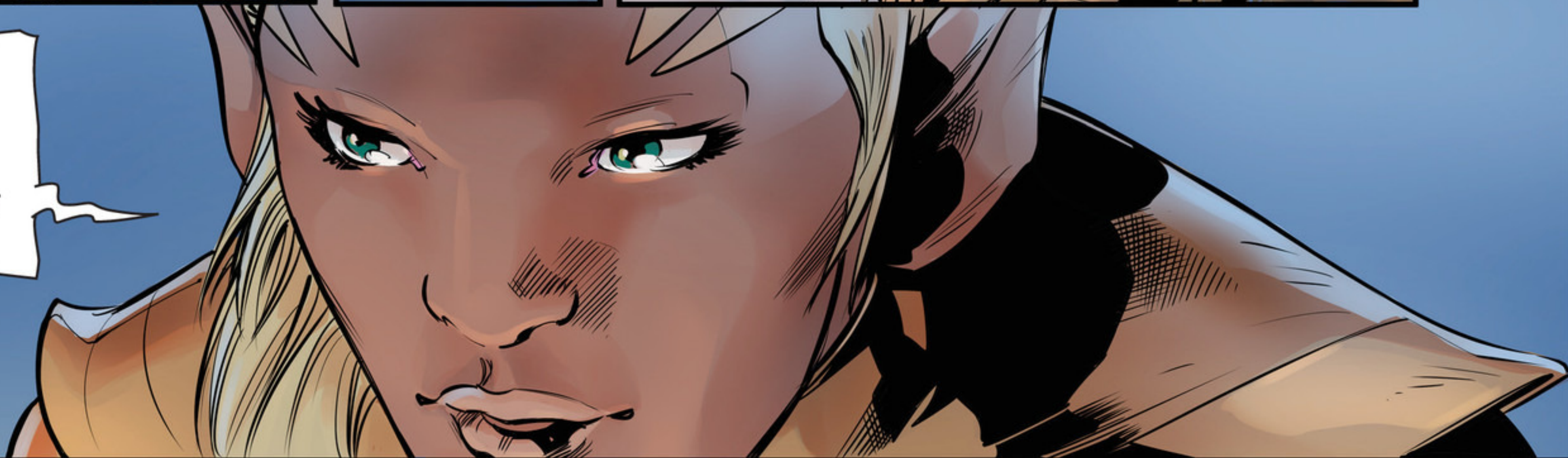
I KNOW THAT MY
FATHER DOESN'T
BELIEVE IN MY
SUCCESS. I
SOMETIMES FEEL
LIKE A MEDIOCRE
WARRIOR.



DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT
YOU FELT STRONGER
WHEN YOU WERE
BY MY SIDE?

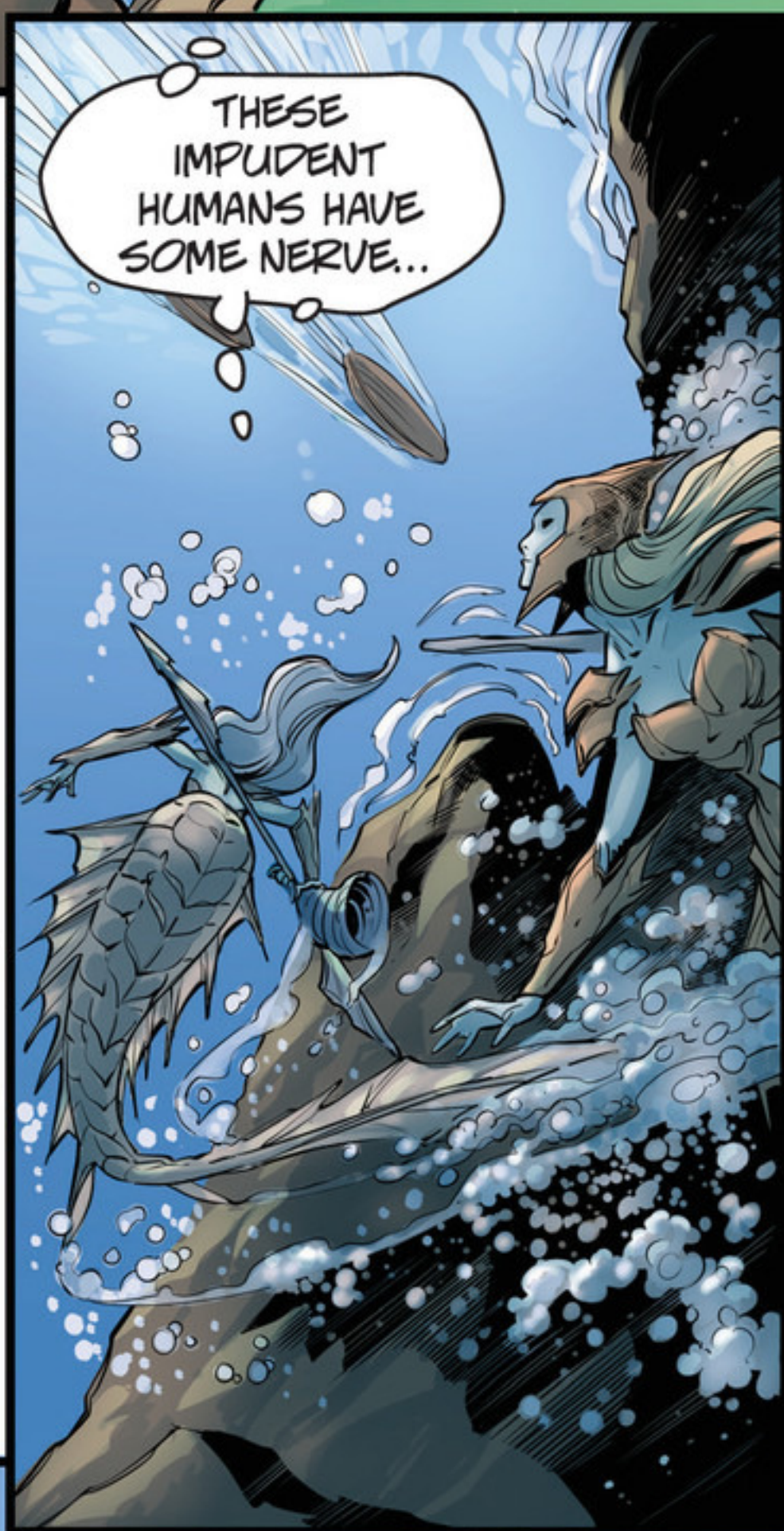
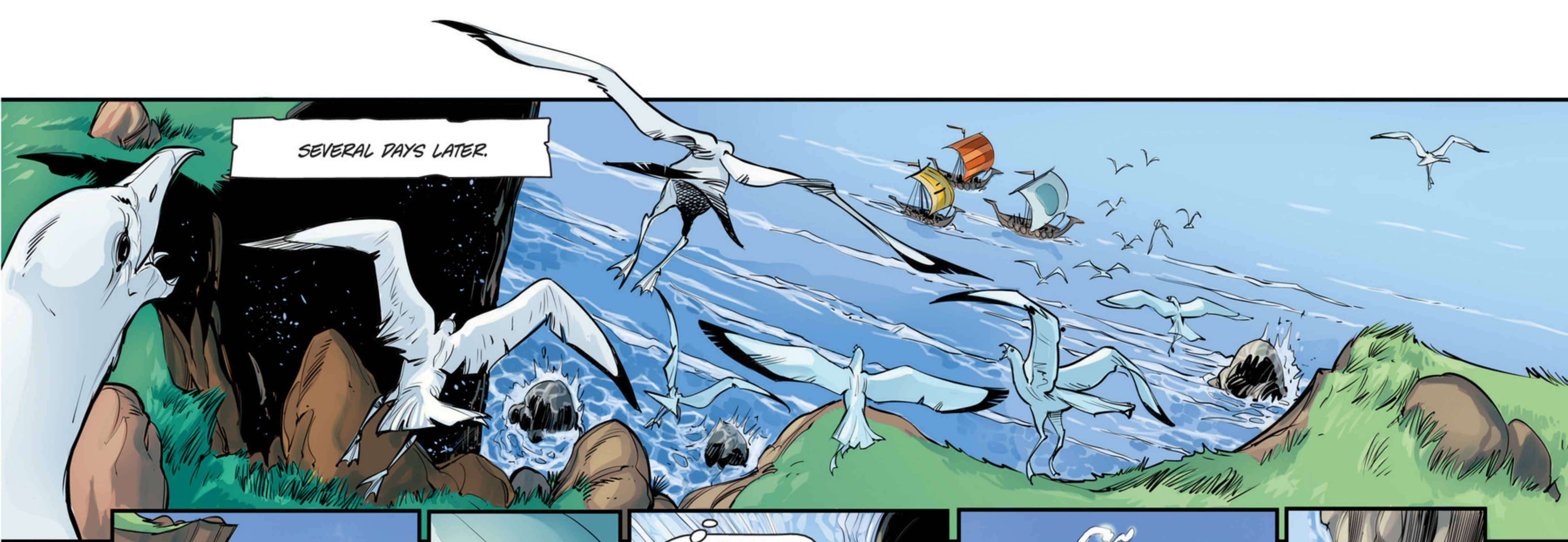


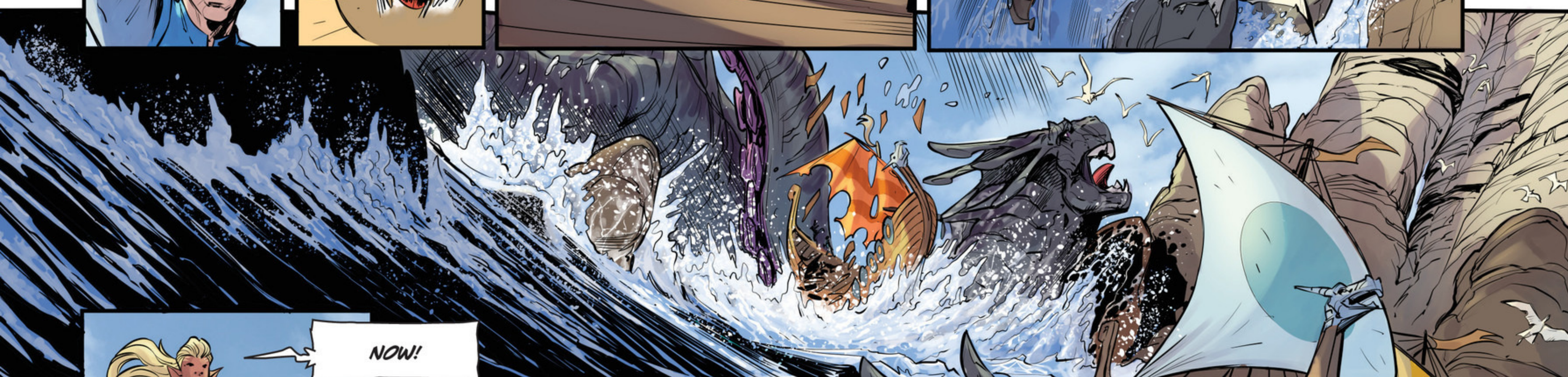
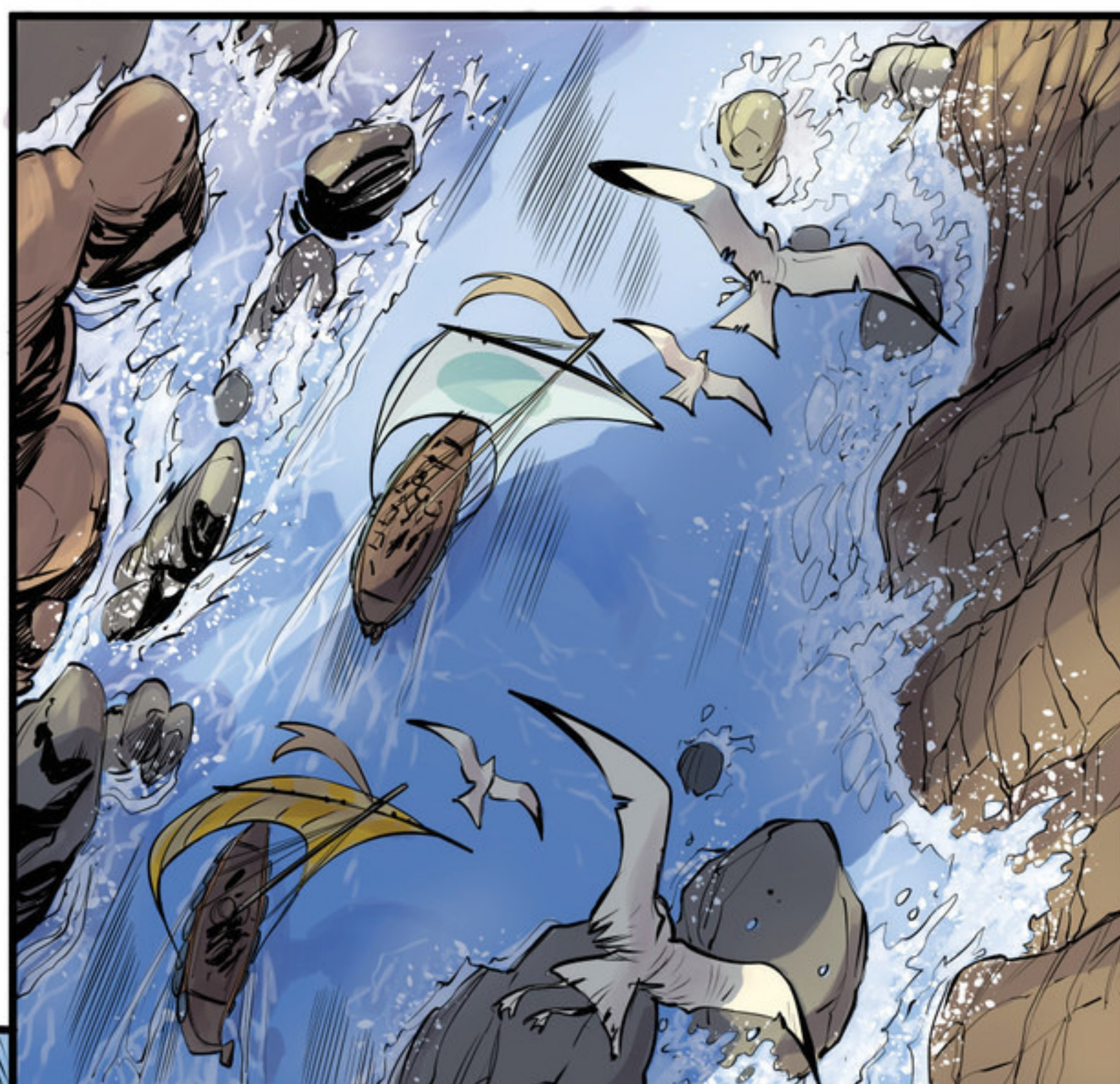
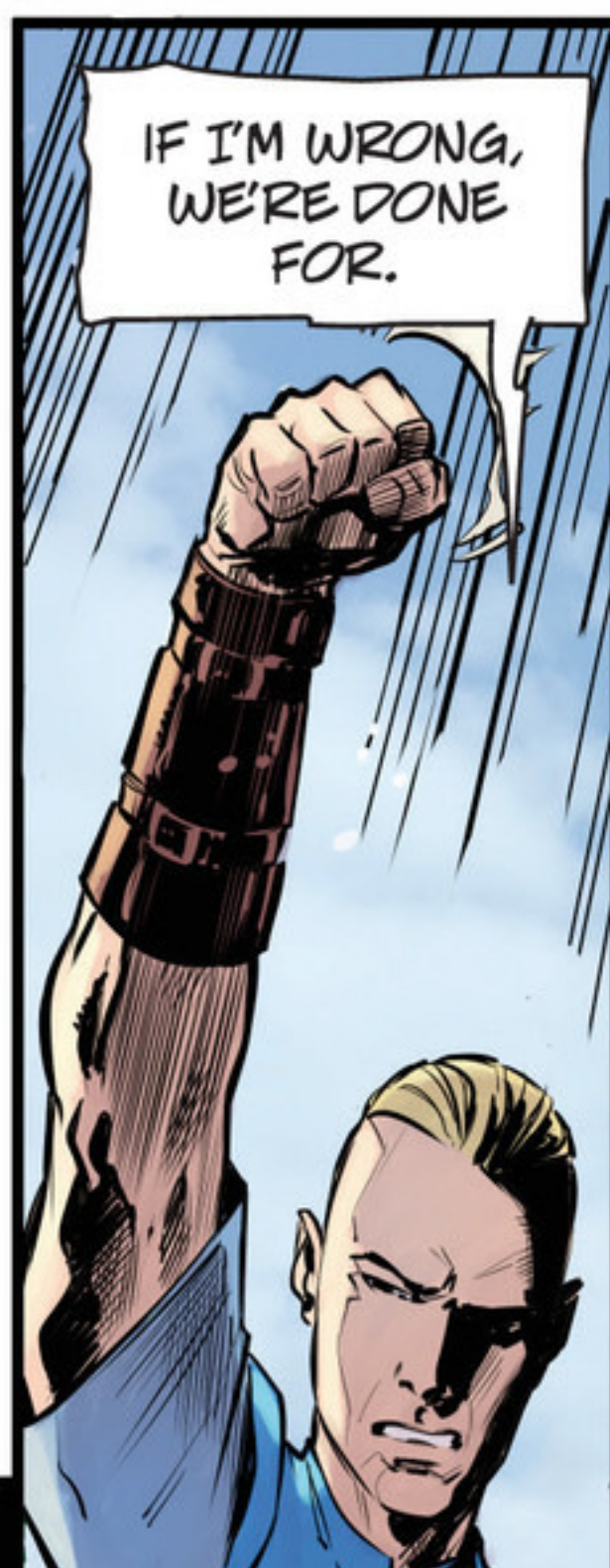
YOU KNOW, I UNDERSTAND YOU, YOU
FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DIFFERENT. BUT AT
LEAST, YOU HAVE A REAL FAMILY.
WHEREVER I GO, I GET REJECTED...
HALF-HUMAN, HALF-TROLL... THE TRUTH IS,
I'M NEITHER ONE NOR THE OTHER. I DON'T
FEEL LIKE I BELONG ANYWHERE.

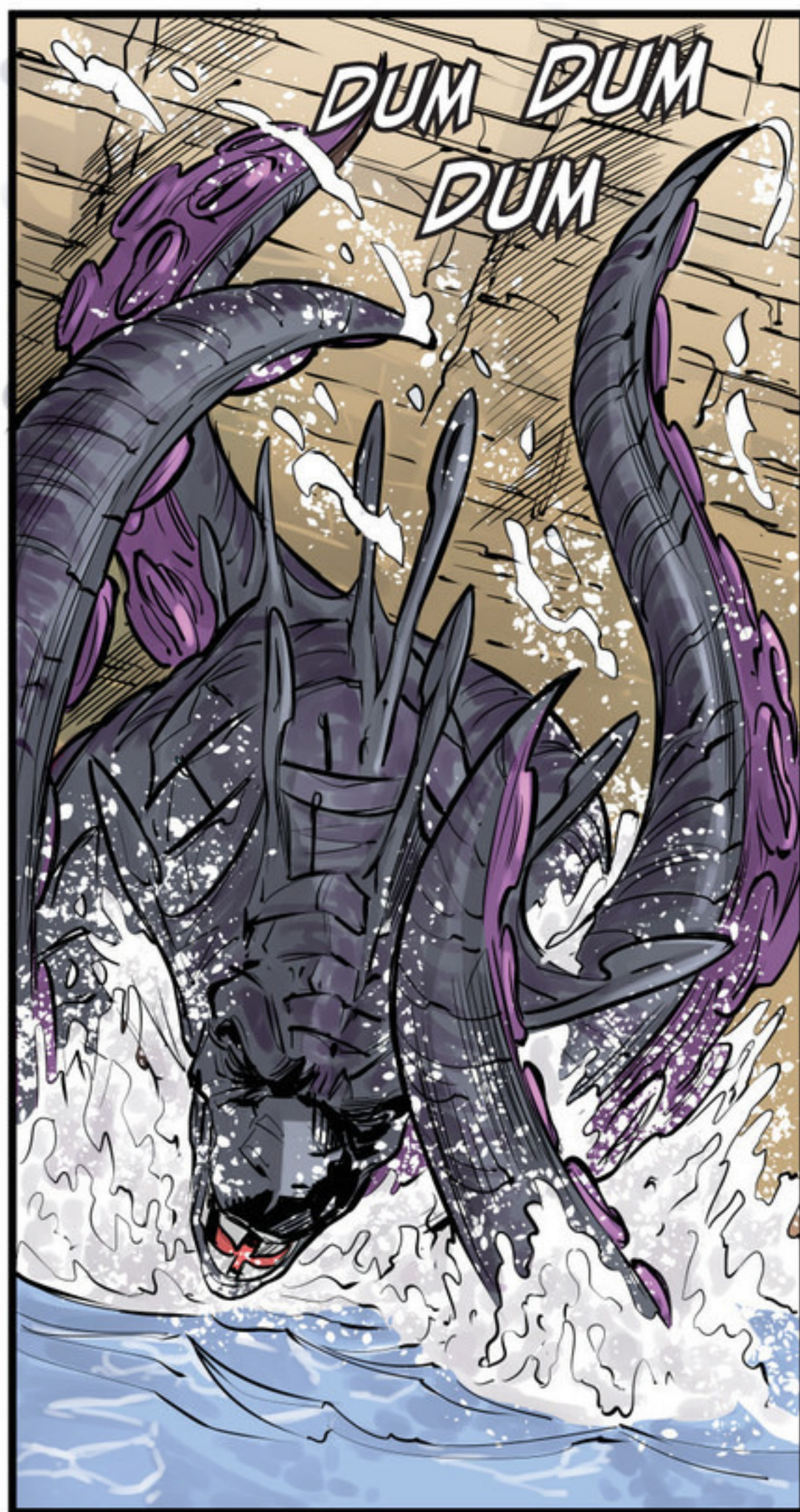


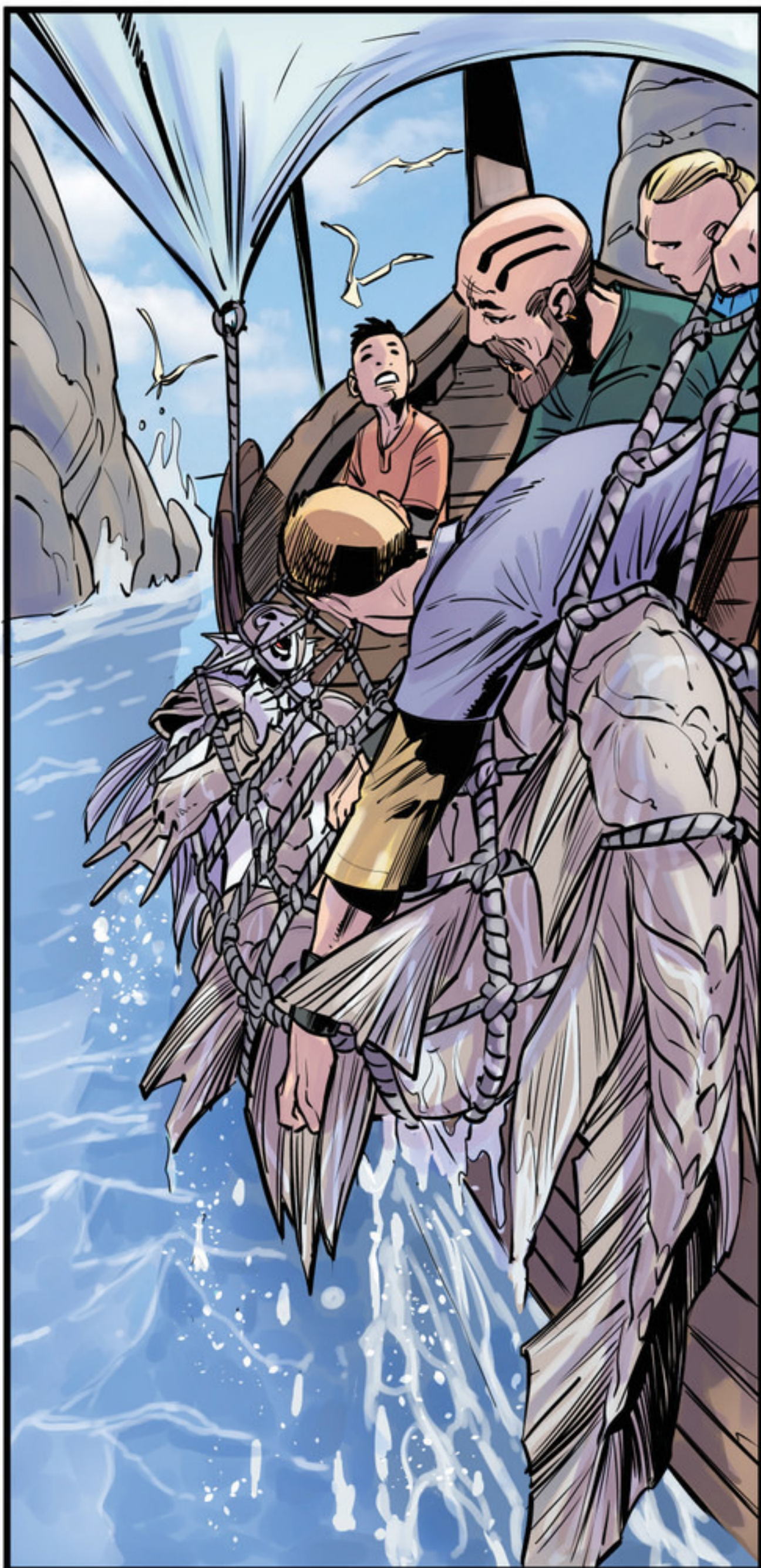
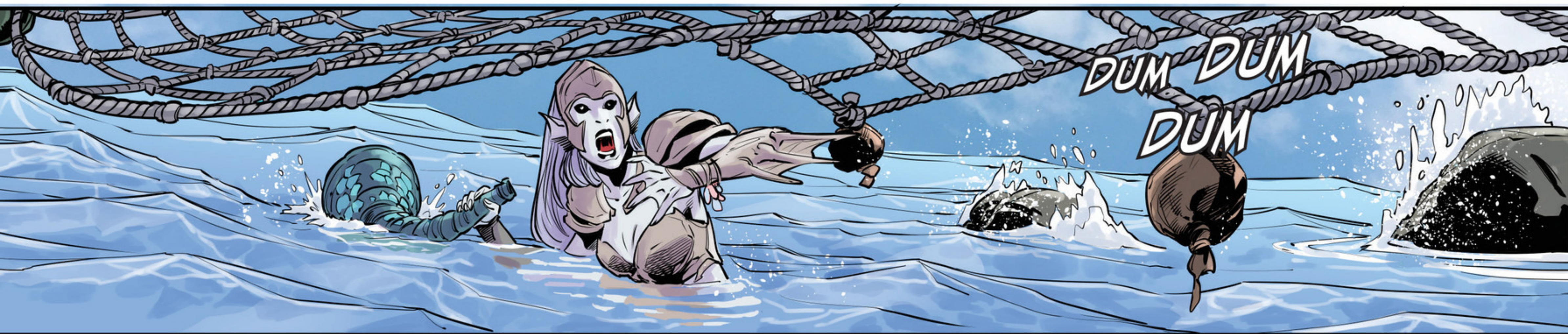
EXCEPT MAYBE
IN YOUR ARMS...







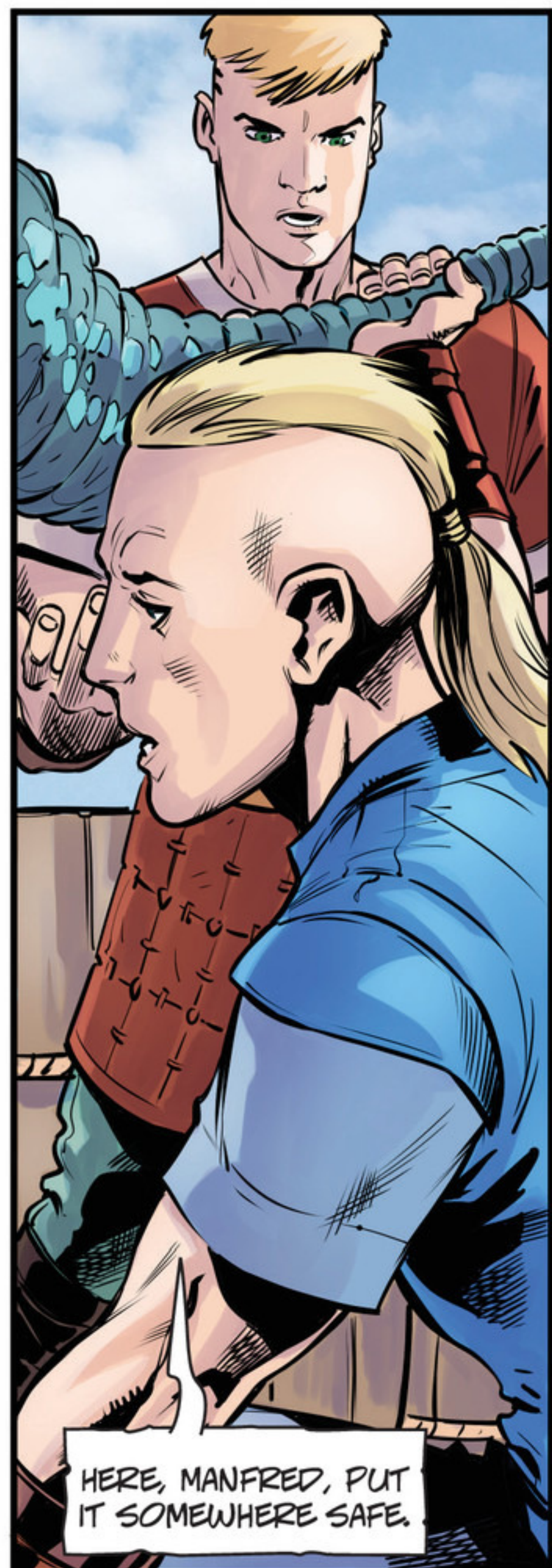




SO IT'S WITH THIS
CONCH THAT YOU
CONTROL THE
JÖRMUNGAND.



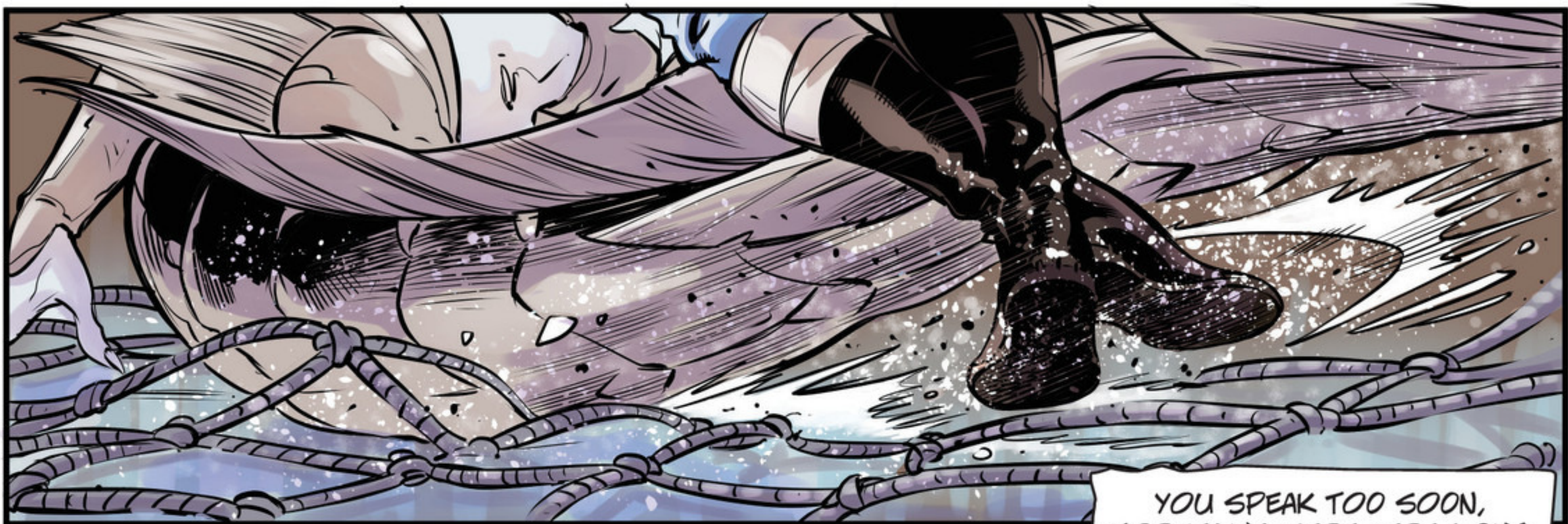
AAAAAAAHH!



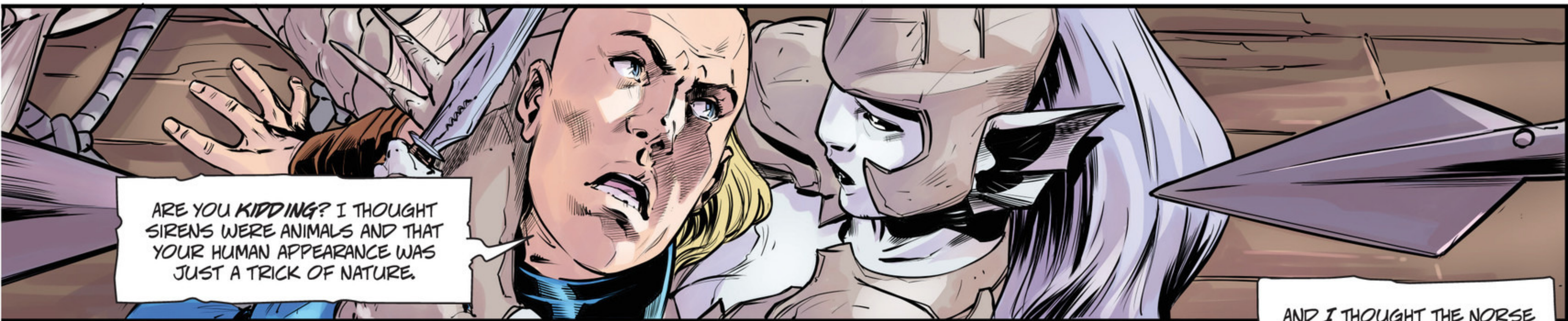
HERE, MANFRED, PUT
IT SOMEWHERE SAFE.



DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT
GOING TO KILL YOU. YOUR KIND
CAN'T HARM US ANYMORE. FROM
NOW ON, YOU'RE NO MORE
DANGEROUS THAN A SARDINE.

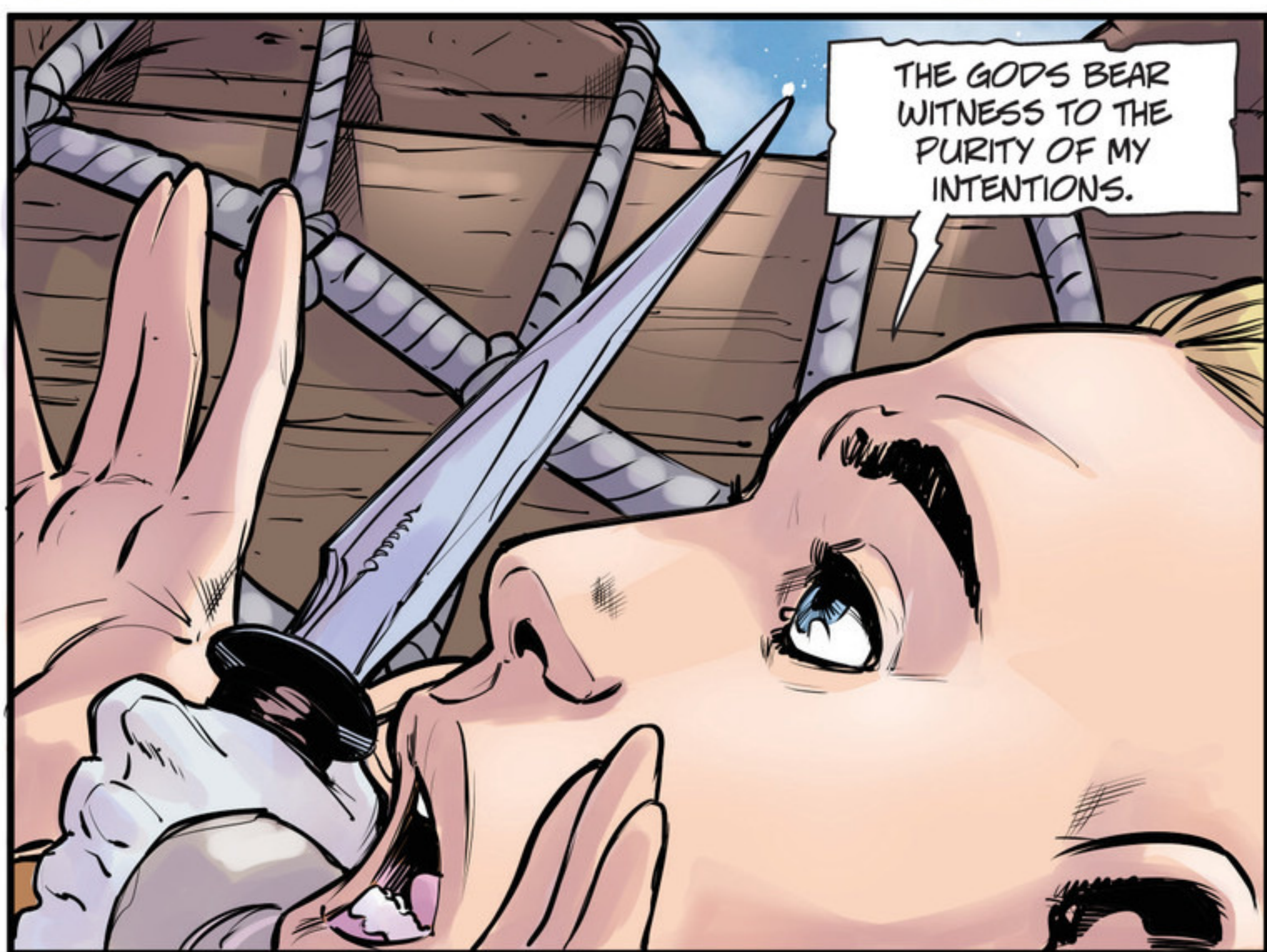


YOU SPEAK TOO SOON,
NORSE! WE WERE HERE **LONG**
BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG.
IT WAS YOUR PEOPLE WHO
INVADED OUR WATERS, NOT
THE OTHER WAY AROUND. THE
GODS WILL PROTECT US.



ARE YOU KIDDING? I THOUGHT SIRENS WERE ANIMALS AND THAT YOUR HUMAN APPEARANCE WAS JUST A TRICK OF NATURE.

AND I THOUGHT THE NORSE WERE A BACKWARD PEOPLE... I MUST CONFESS, YOUR TRAP WAS A CLEVER ONE.



THE GODS BEAR WITNESS TO THE PURITY OF MY INTENTIONS.



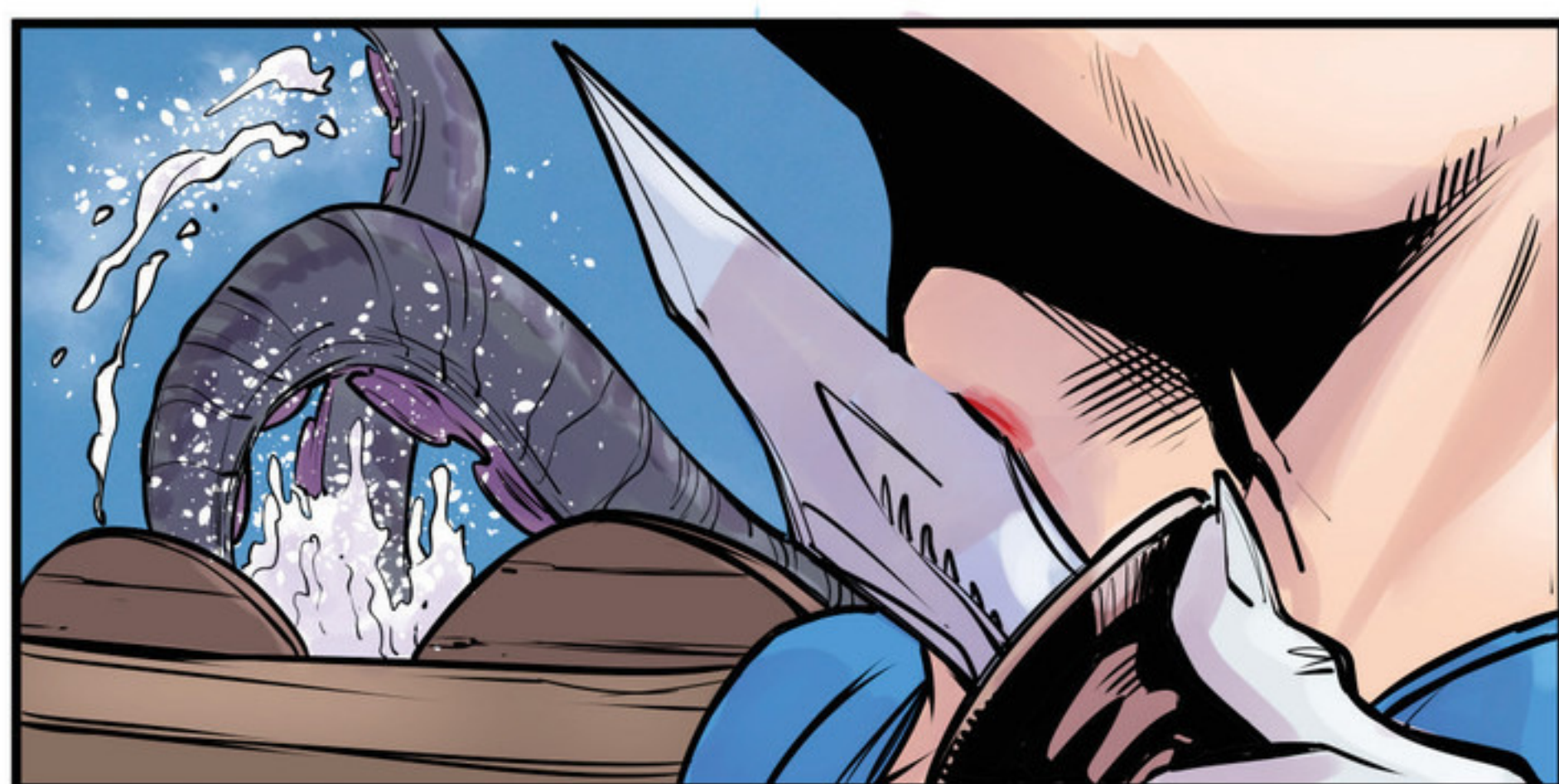
I ONLY TOOK THE CONCH TO PREVENT YOUR PEOPLE FROM SLAUGHTERING MINE. THE SEA IS VAST... WHY KILL EACH OTHER?



WHY DON'T WE CALL A TRUCE UNTIL WE WORK OUT A LASTING PEACE?



AND WHY WOULDN'T I OFFER YOUR LIFE TO THE GODS? TO PUNISH YOU FOR YOUR LIES...



I MEAN IT. I, INGVALD KETILSSON, BELIEVE THAT WE CAN PUT AN END TO THE ENDLESS MASSACRES BETWEEN OUR TWO SPECIES.

YOU'RE CRAZY AND NAIVE, NORSE! FAREWELL!

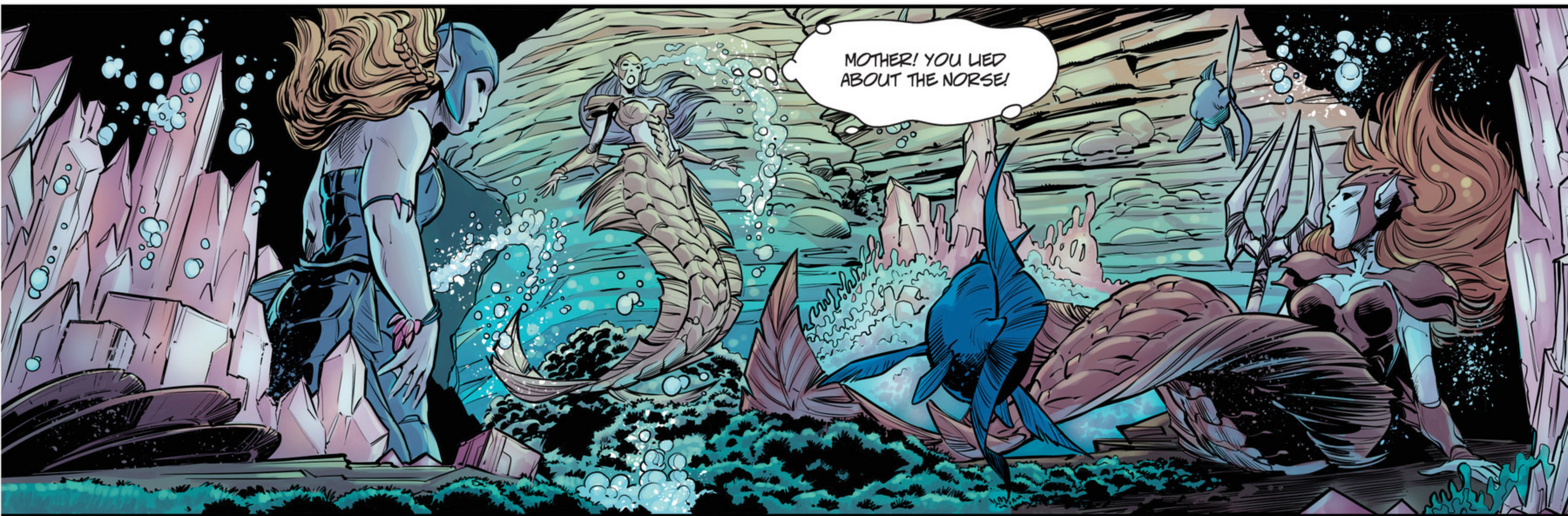
I THOUGHT SIRENS WERE MERCILESS CREATURES. WHY DID SHE LET YOU LIVE?

I DON'T KNOW...

BRRRRRRRRRRROOOOH...

DO YOU THINK IT'LL COME BACK NOW THAT YOU'VE SET IT FREE?

OF COURSE. IT'LL BE UNDER MY COMMAND AS SOON AS I CALL IT. THIS CONCH IS MAGIC. IT CAN BE HEARD FROM ALL THE WAY DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, EXCEPT WHEN DEAFENING DRUMS ARE PLAYED NEAR IT...

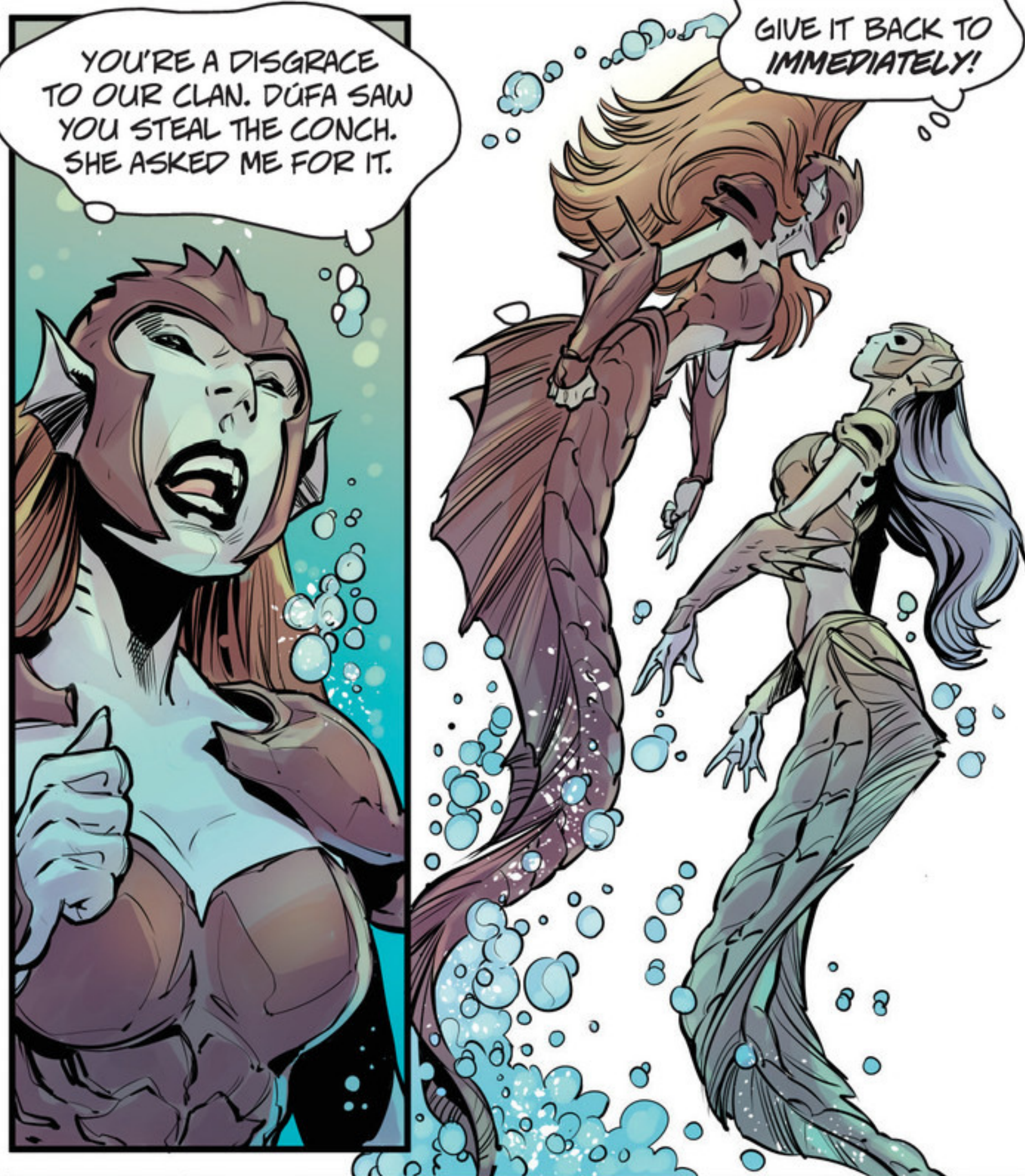


MOTHER! YOU LIED ABOUT THE NORSE!



THEY'RE NOT ALL AS BLOODTHIRSTY AS YOU SAID THEY WERE!

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT AFTER YOU RELEASED JÖRMUNGANDR, EVEN THOUGH I EXPRESSLY FORBODE YOU TO DO SO!

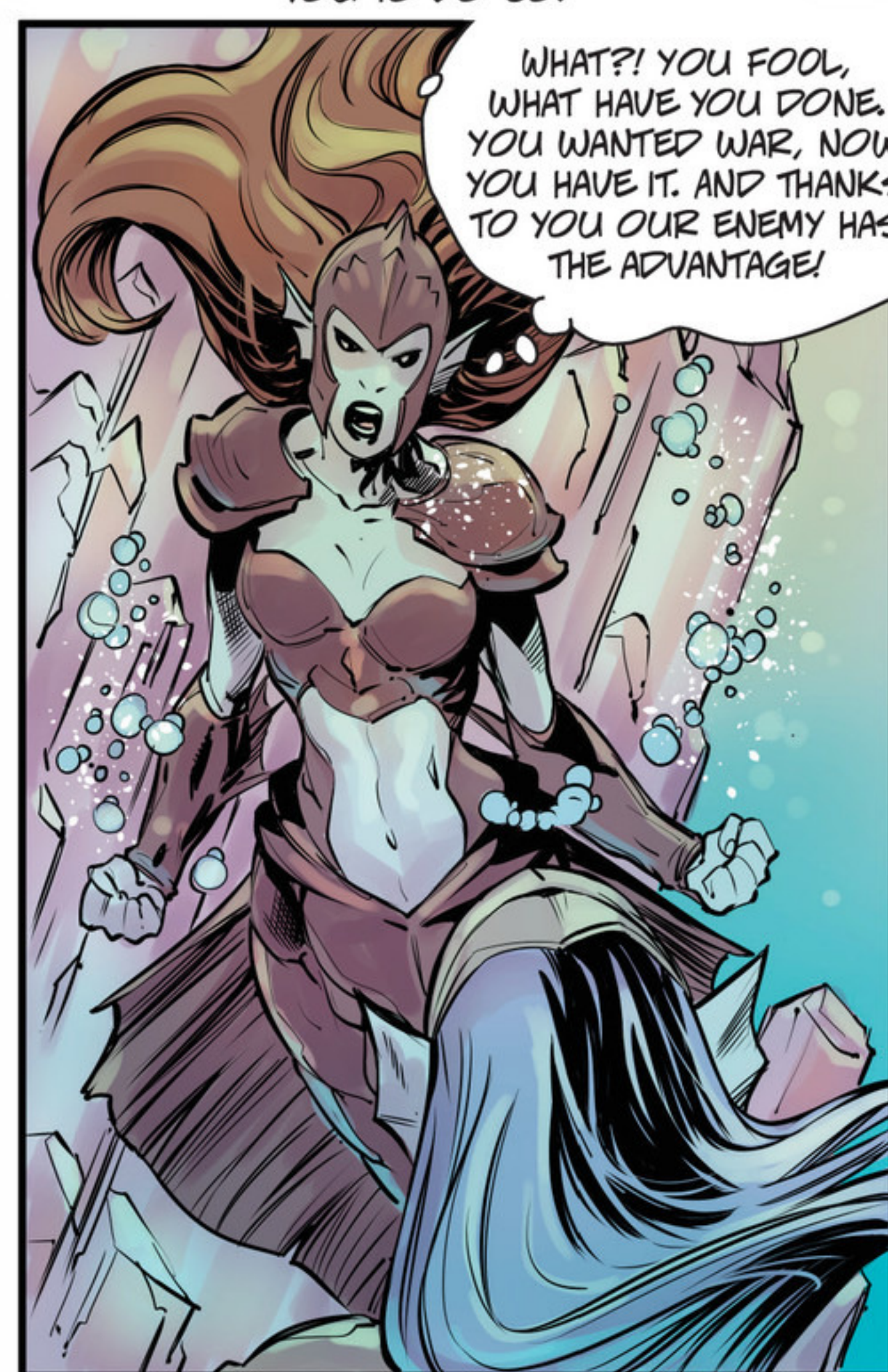


YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO OUR CLAN. DÚFA SAW YOU STEAL THE CONCH. SHE ASKED ME FOR IT.

GIVE IT BACK TO IMMEDIATELY!



THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. THE NORSE...



WHAT?! YOU FOOL, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE. YOU WANTED WAR, NOW YOU HAVE IT. AND THANKS TO YOU OUR ENEMY HAS THE ADVANTAGE!

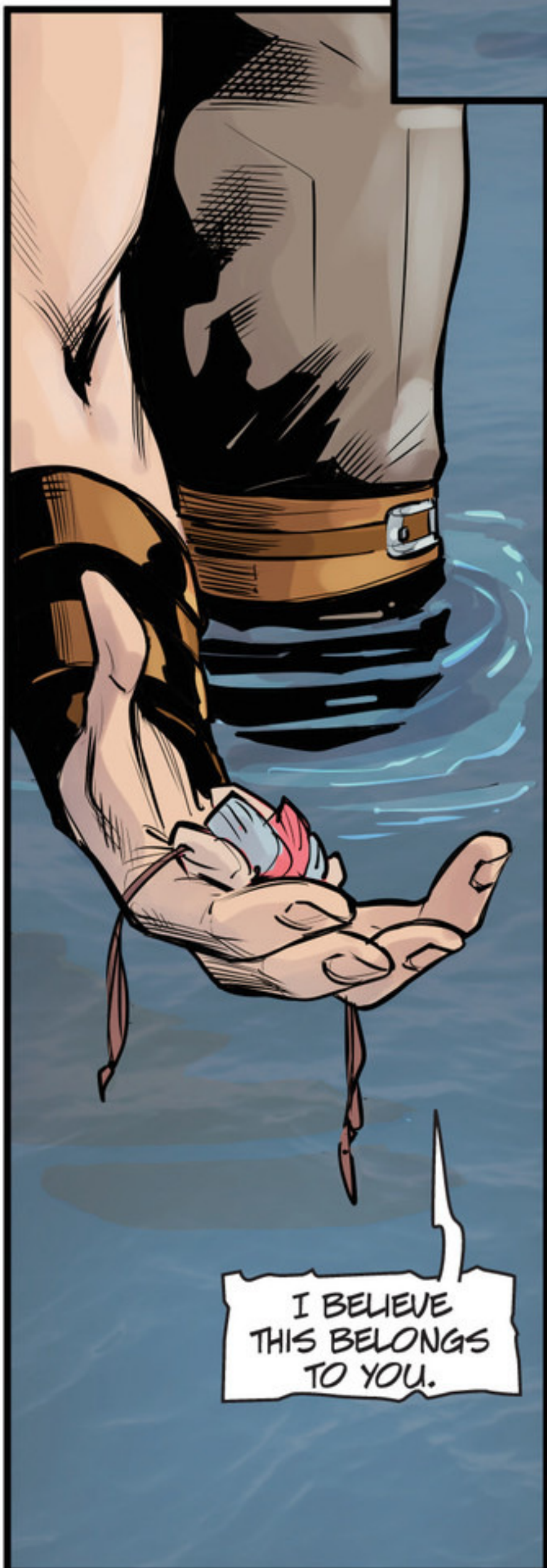
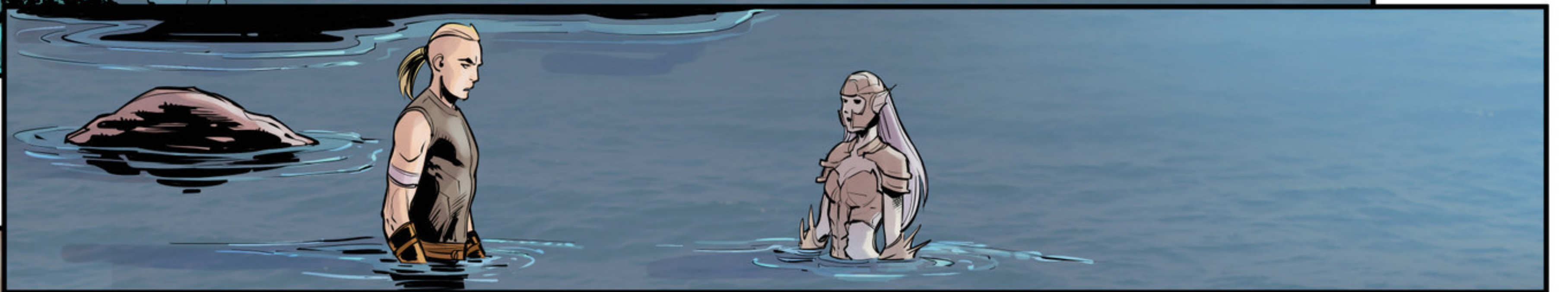
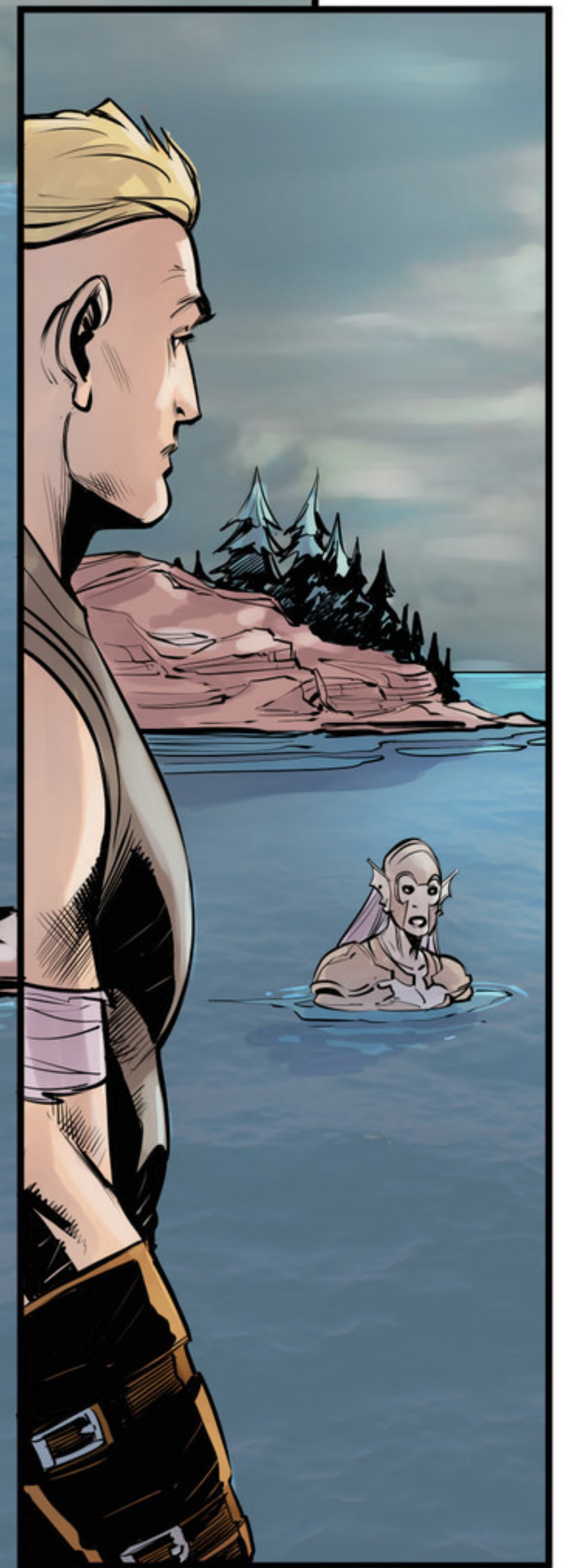


BUT I--

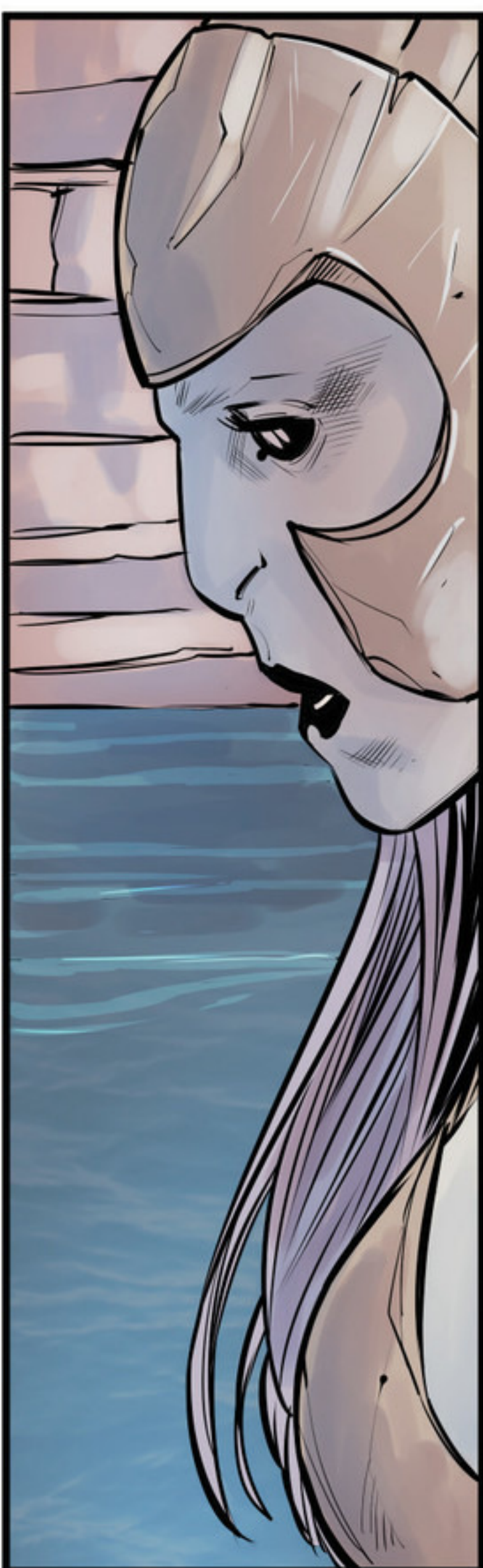
SHUT UP! I'M GOING TO WARN DÚFA. WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DESTROY THE CONCH. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT CAN BE DONE, SINCE IT'S PROTECTED BY MAGIC.



FROM NOW ON YOU ARE NOT TO TAKE THE SLIGHTEST INITIATIVE WITHOUT TALKING TO ME ABOUT IT FIRST.



I BELIEVE
THIS BELONGS
TO YOU.



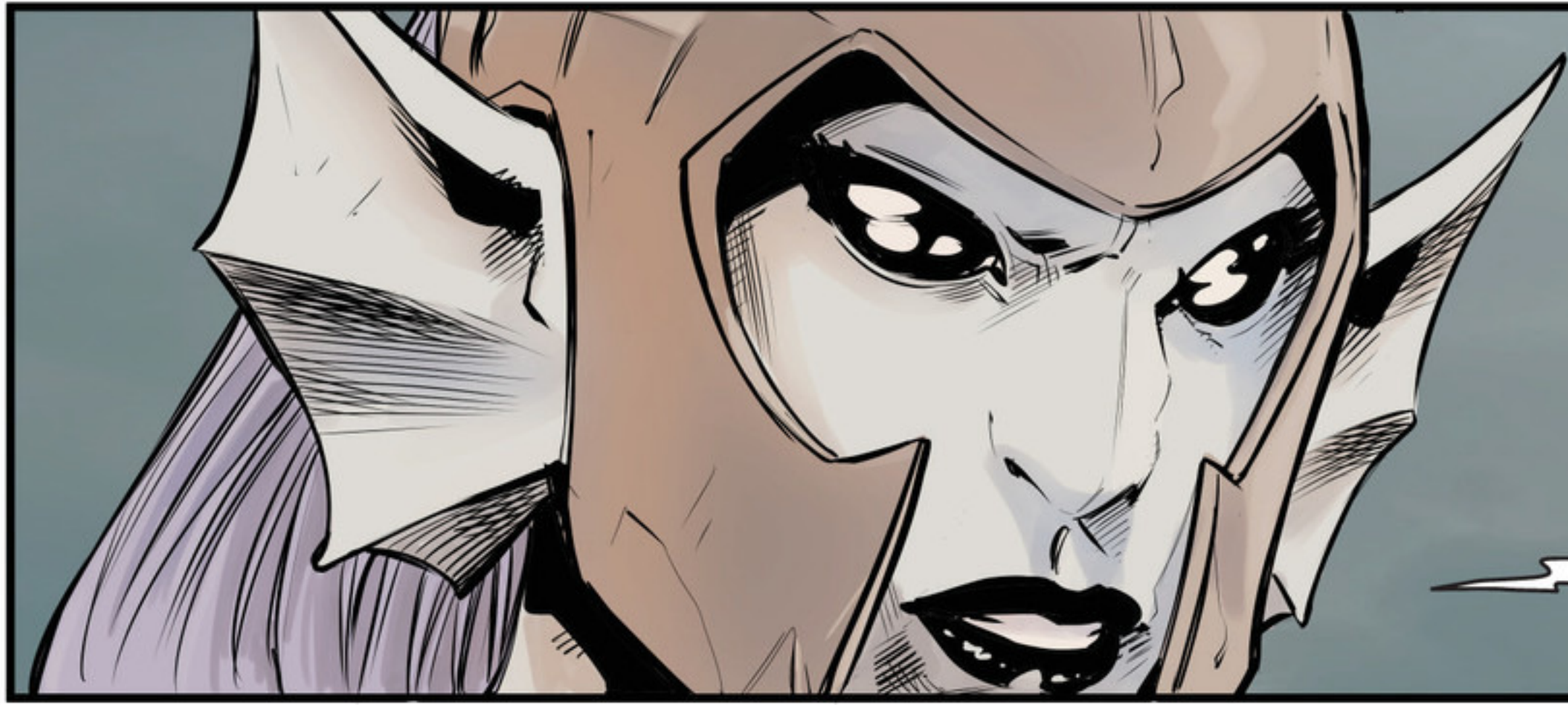
HAVE YOU
THOUGHT ABOUT
THE TRUCE I
PROPOSED?



WHY DO YOU WANT PEACE
BETWEEN OUR TWO SPECIES
SO MUCH, NORSE?



I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU. EVER SINCE WE MET, YOU'VE HAUNTED MY MIND. IF OUR PEOPLE LIVED IN HARMONY, YOU COULD SHOW ME *YOUR* WORLD... AND I COULD SHOW YOU *MINE*.



I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR WORLD.



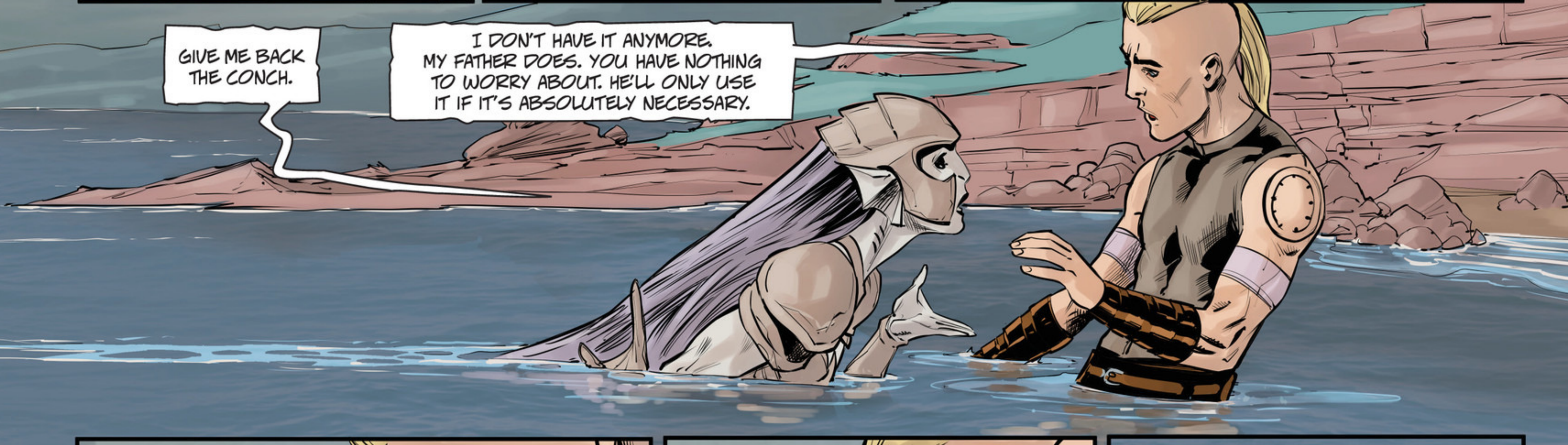
WHAT ABOUT *ME*? HAVE YOU NO INTEREST IN ME? NO OTHER NORSE WOULD SPEAK TO YOU LIKE A MAN WOULD TO A WOMAN...



I AM NOTHING LIKE YOUR PITIFUL FEMALES!

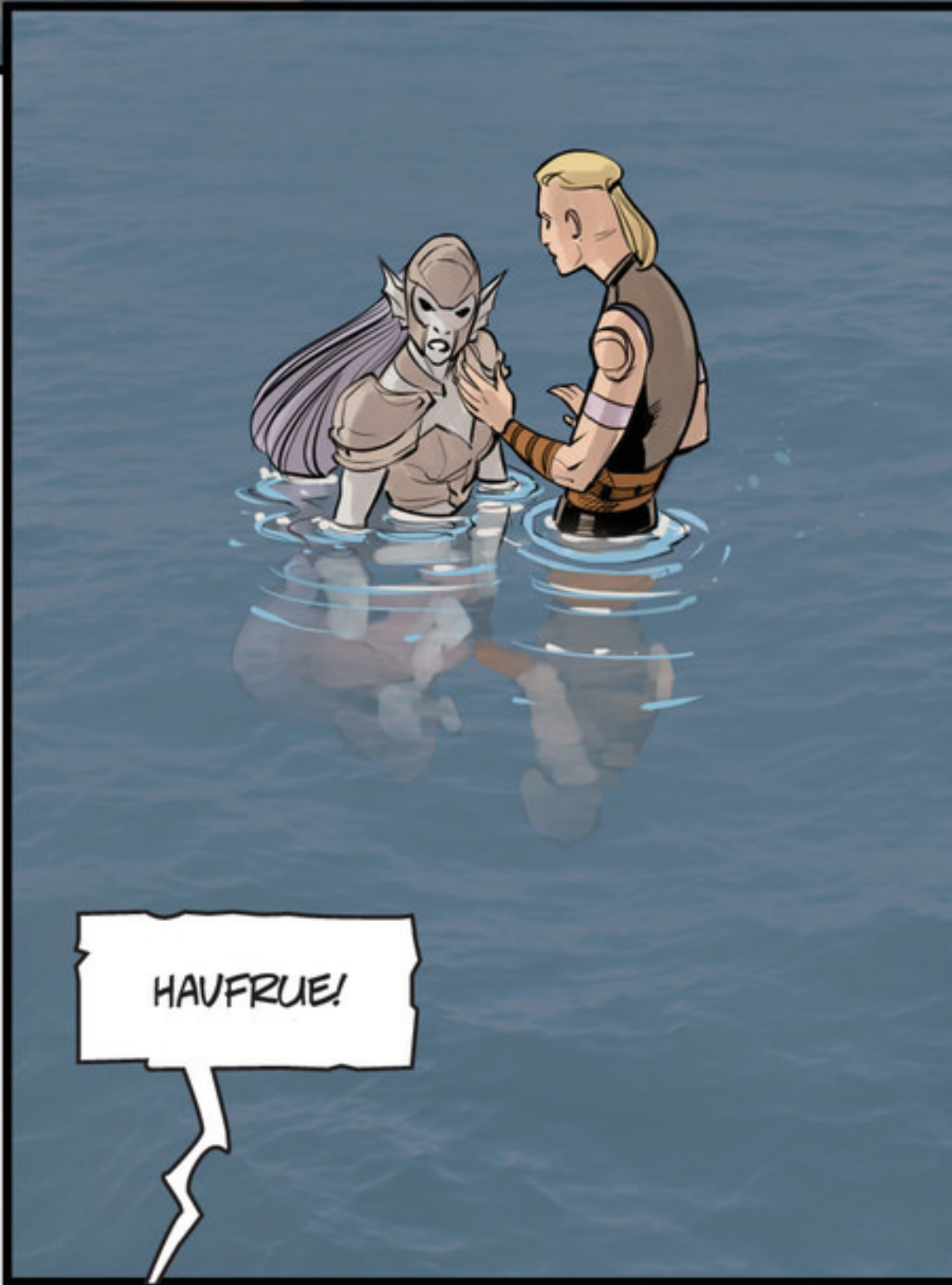
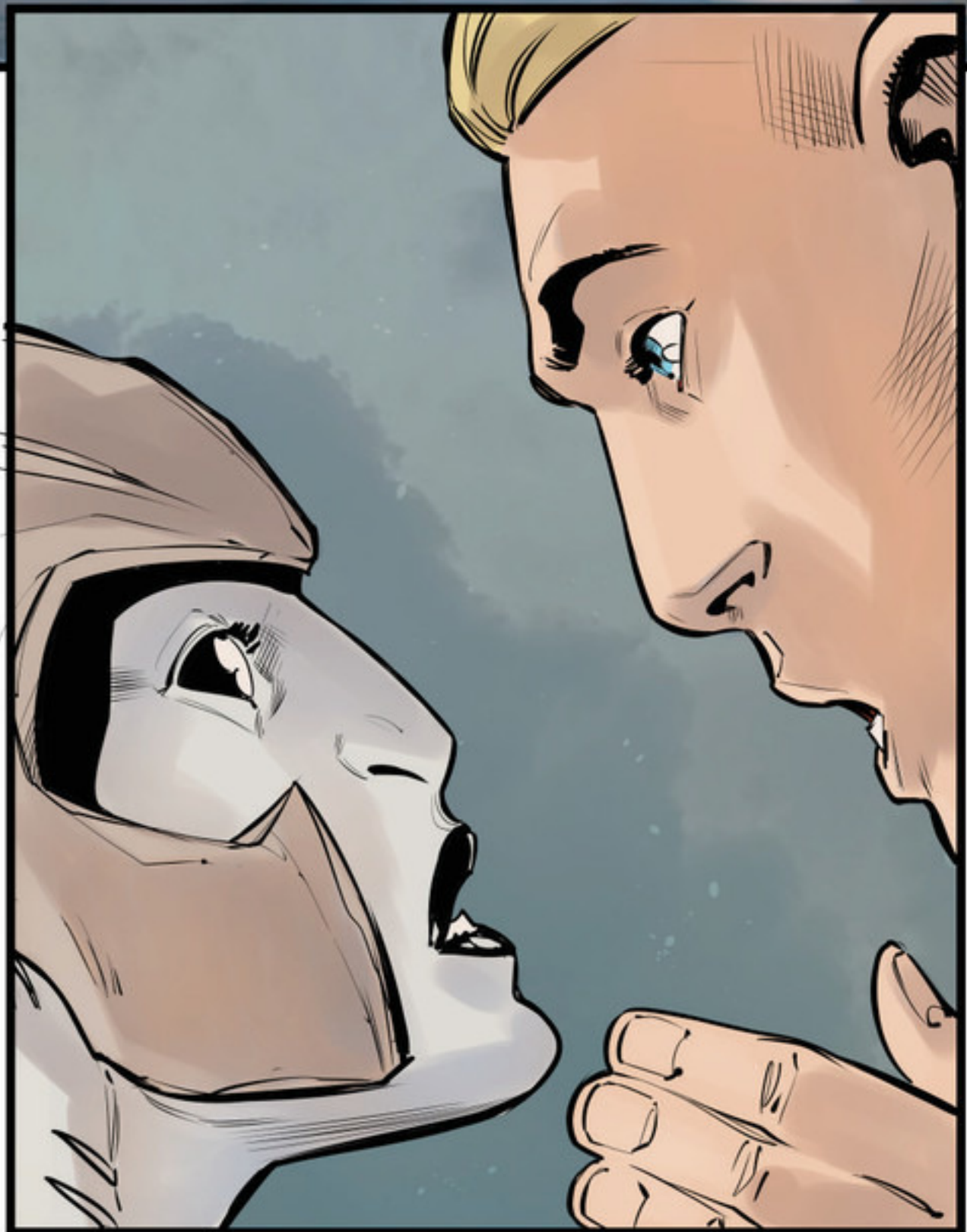
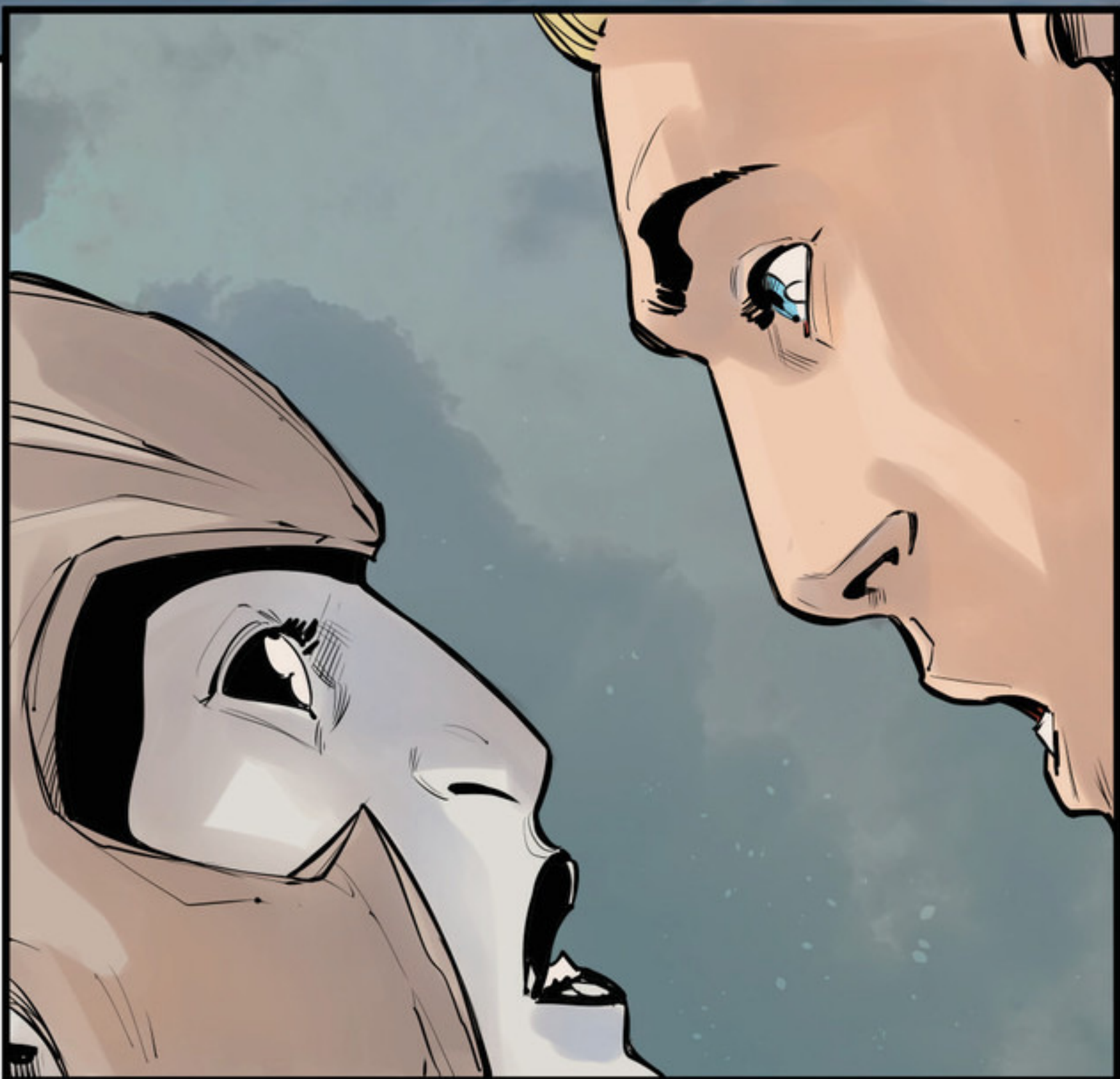


THAT'S TRUE. YOU GIVE OFF SOMETHING THEY DON'T HAVE. YOU'RE... BEWITCHING...

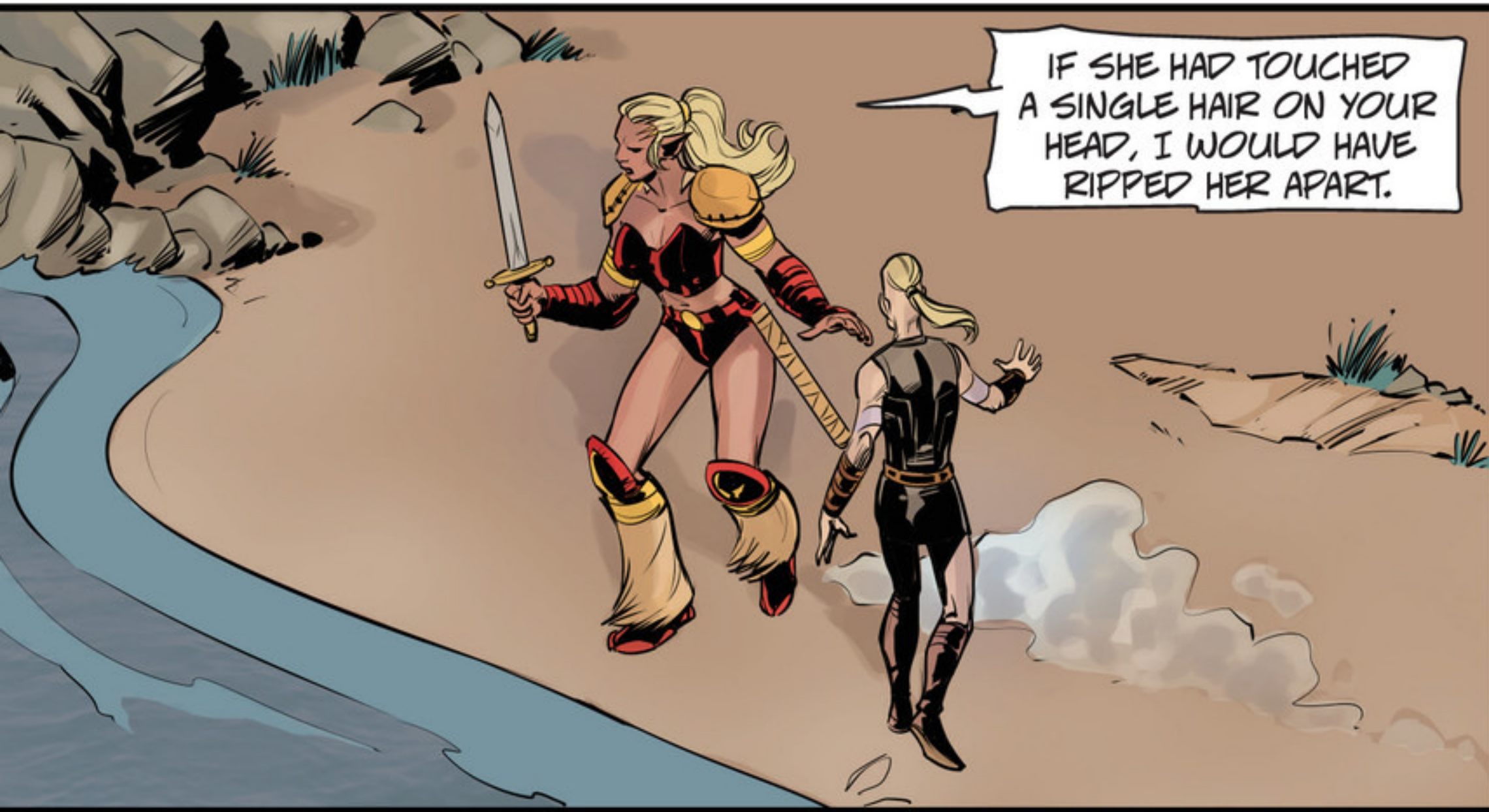
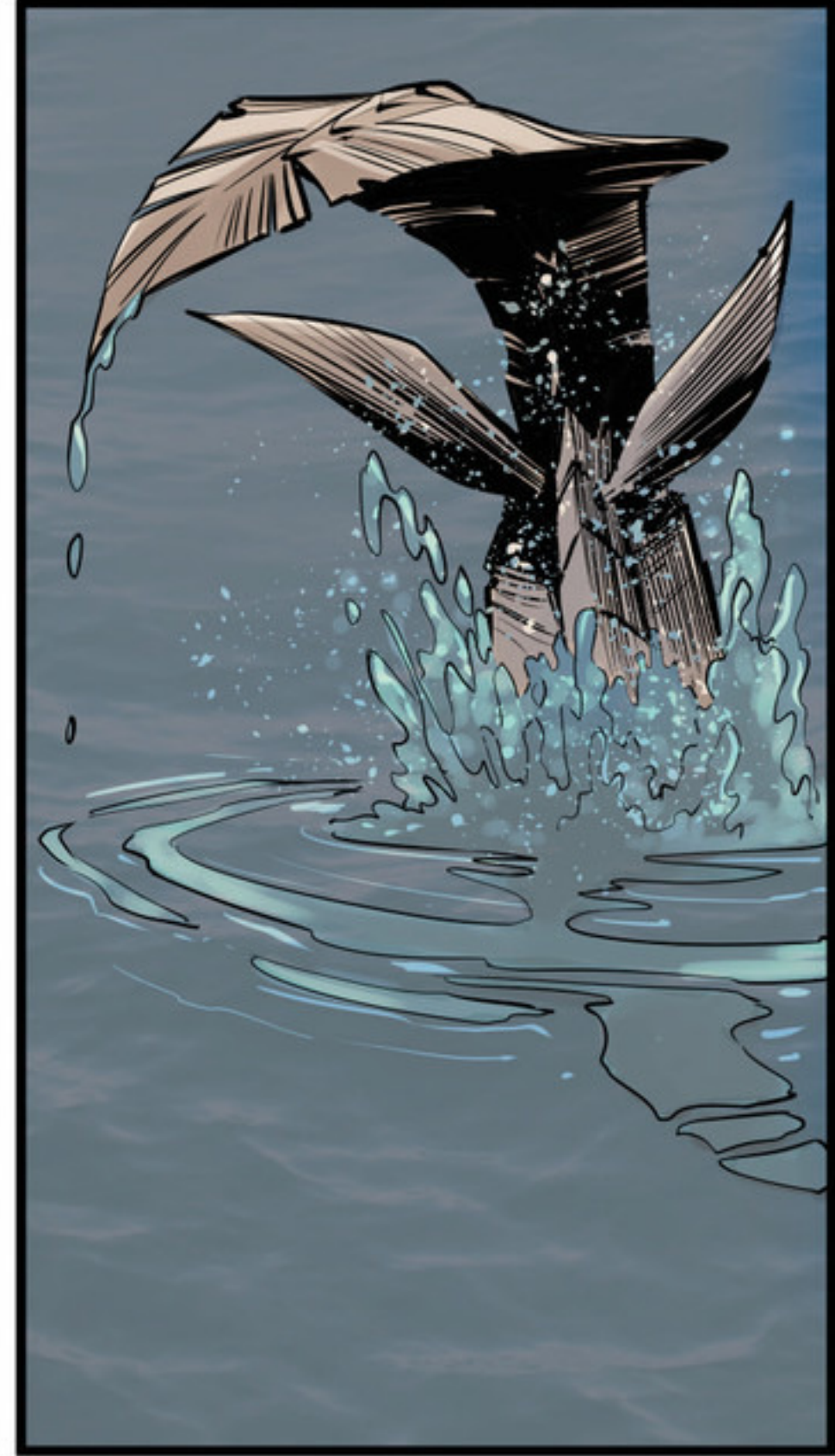
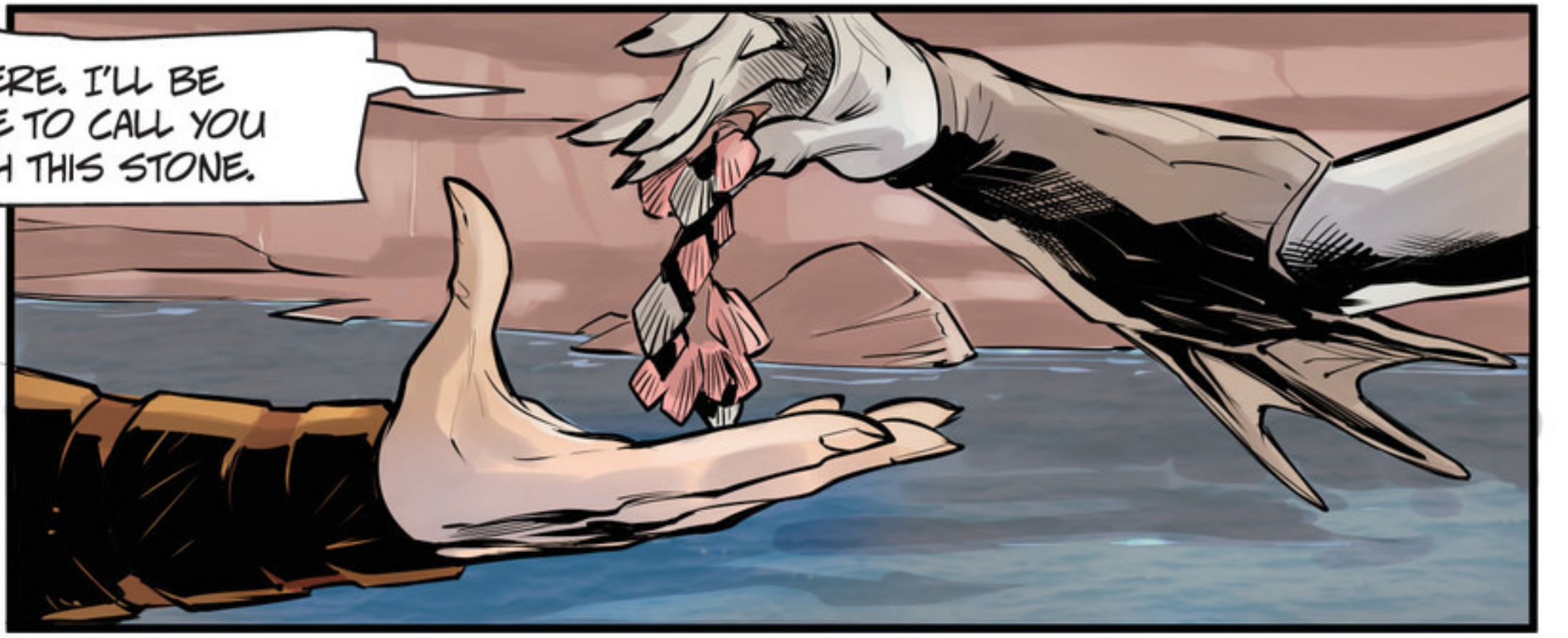


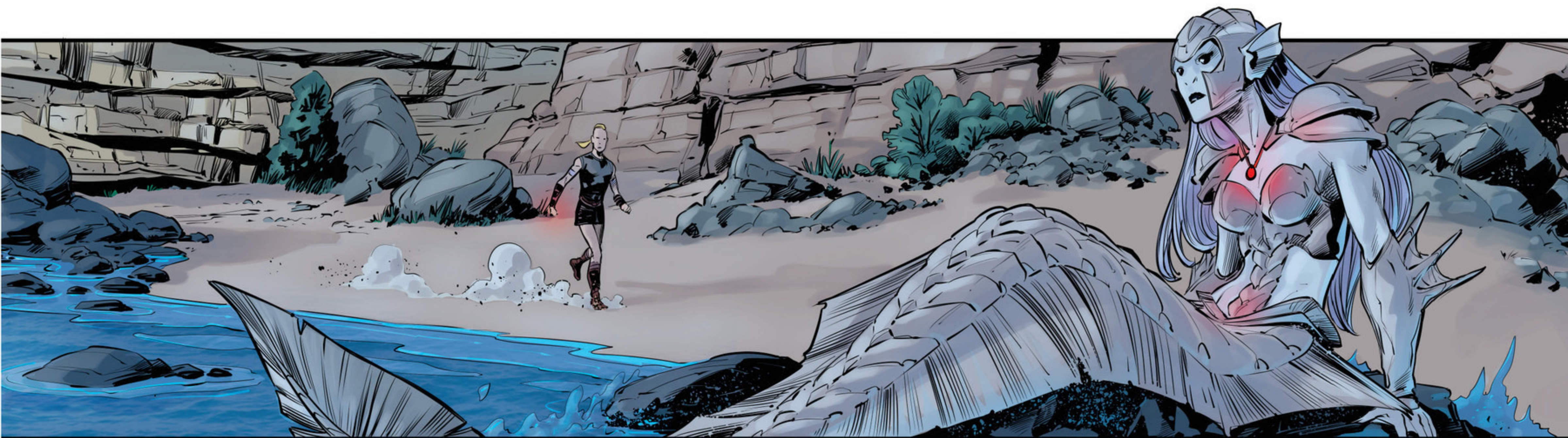
GIVE ME BACK THE CONCH.

I DON'T HAVE IT ANYMORE. MY FATHER DOES. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. HE'LL ONLY USE IT IF IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.



HAUFRUE!

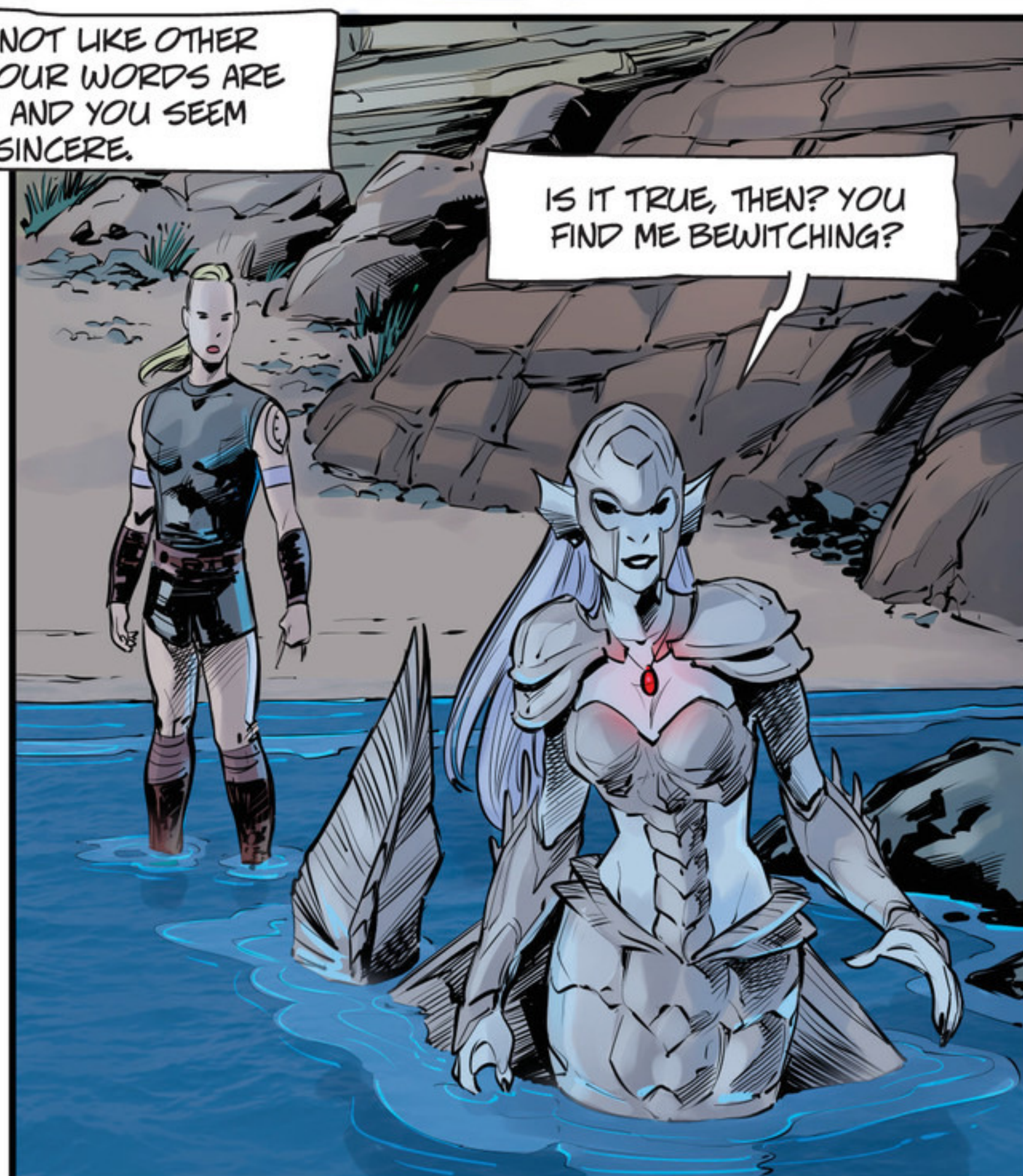




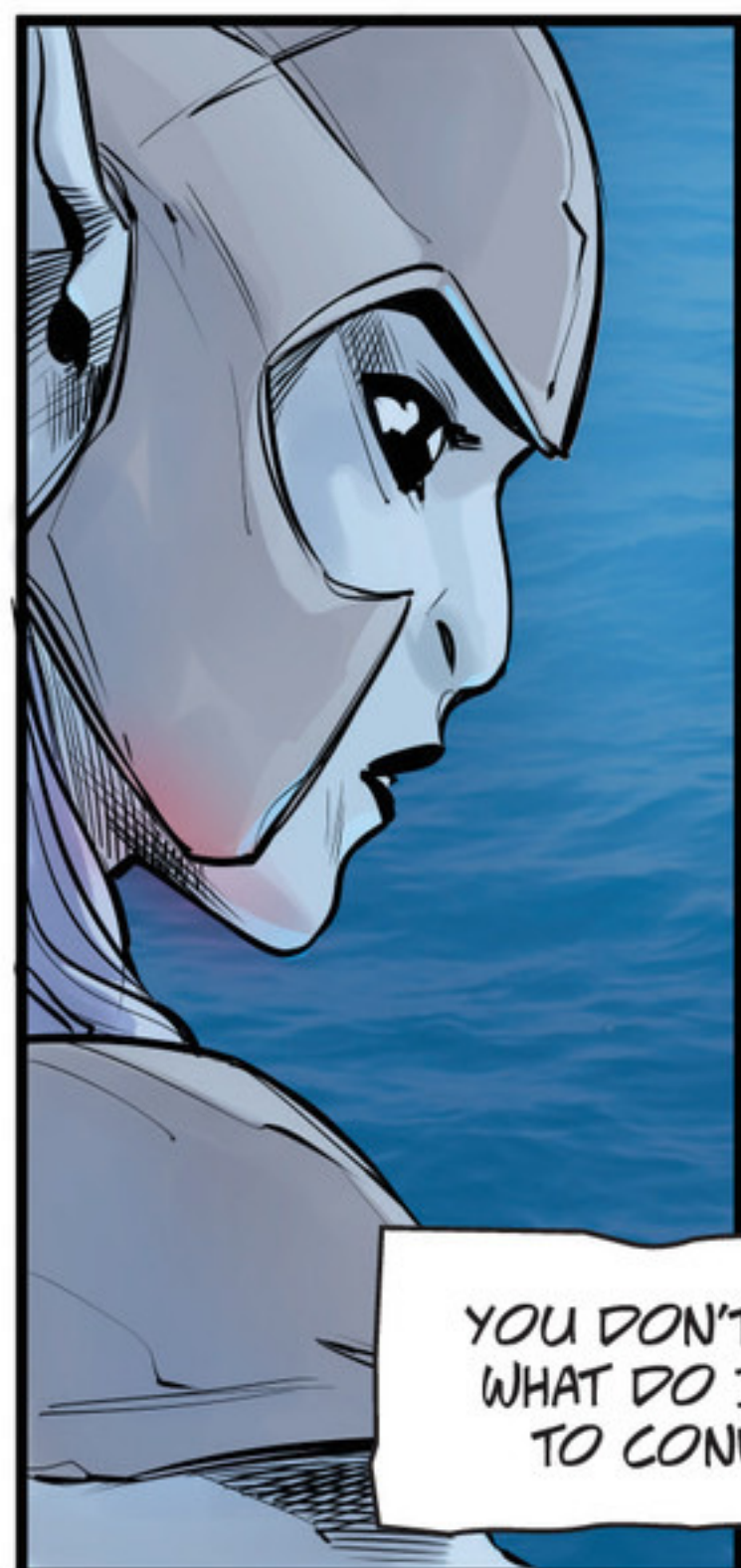
ALRIGHT, HERE I AM.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT
MY PROPOSAL?



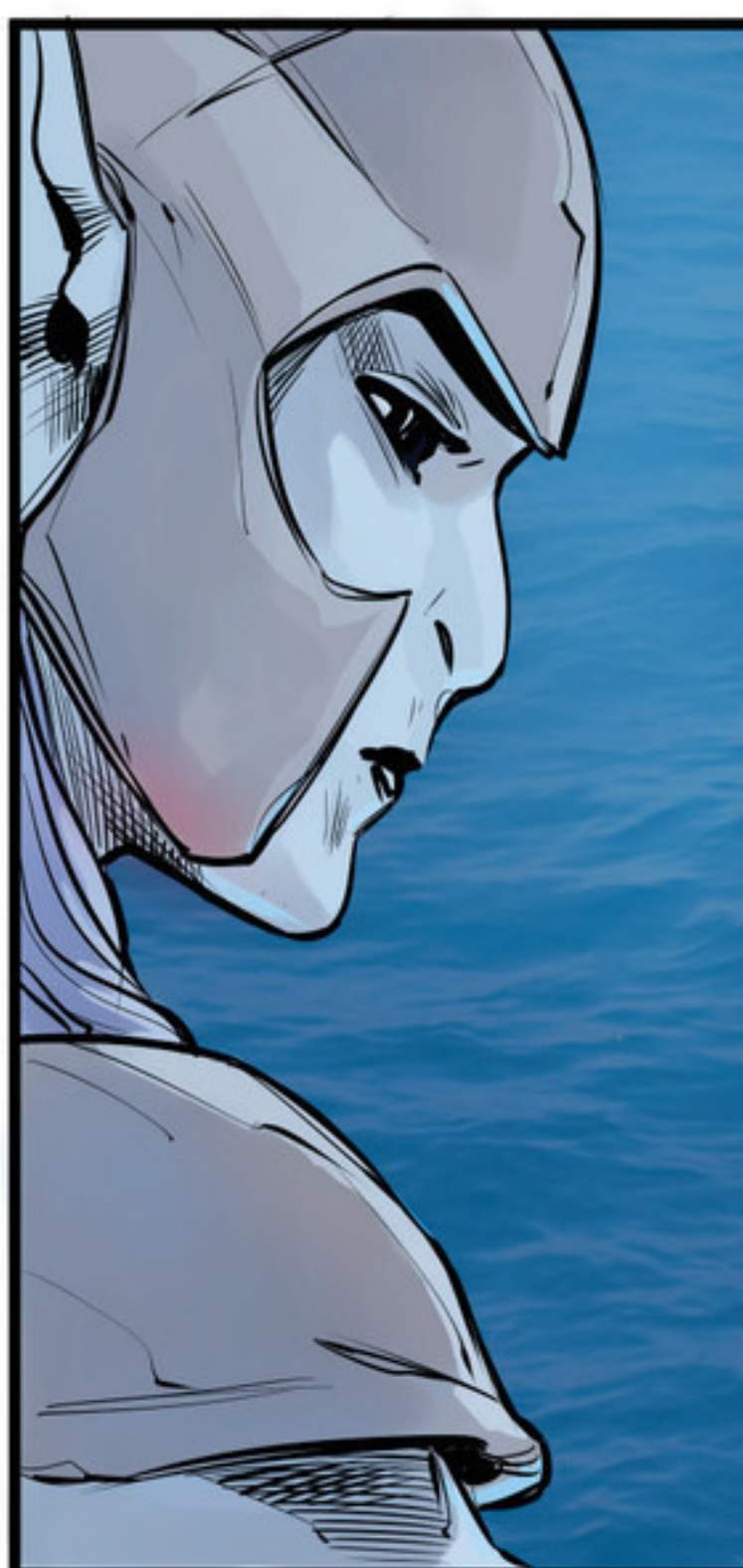
YOU'RE NOT LIKE OTHER
NORSE. YOUR WORDS ARE
SOUND AND YOU SEEM
SINCERE.



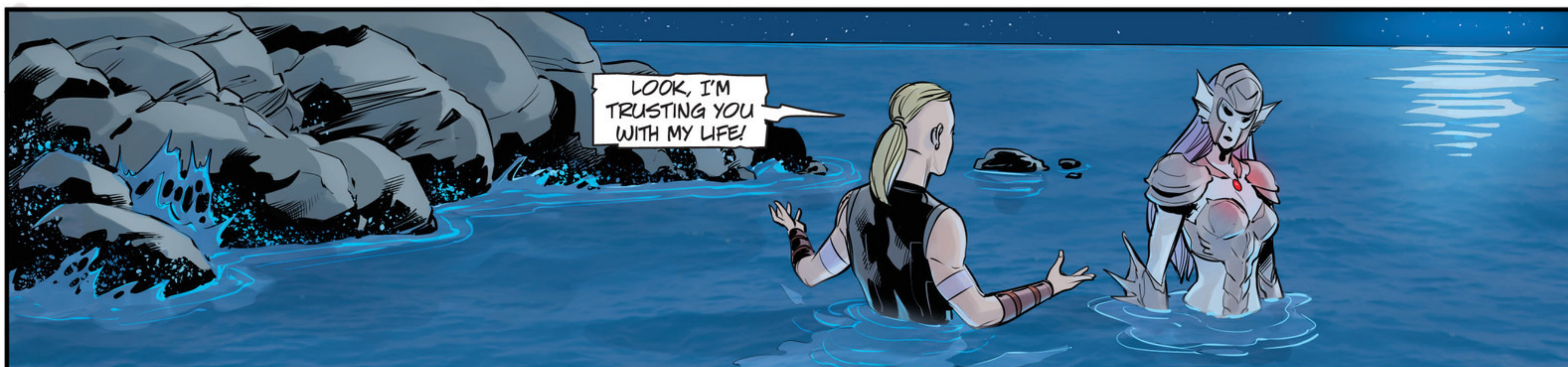
IS IT TRUE, THEN? YOU
FIND ME BEWITCHING?



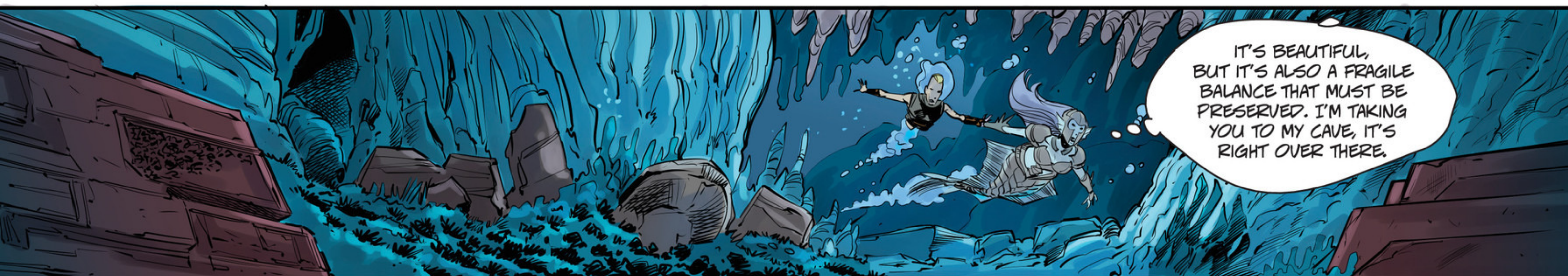
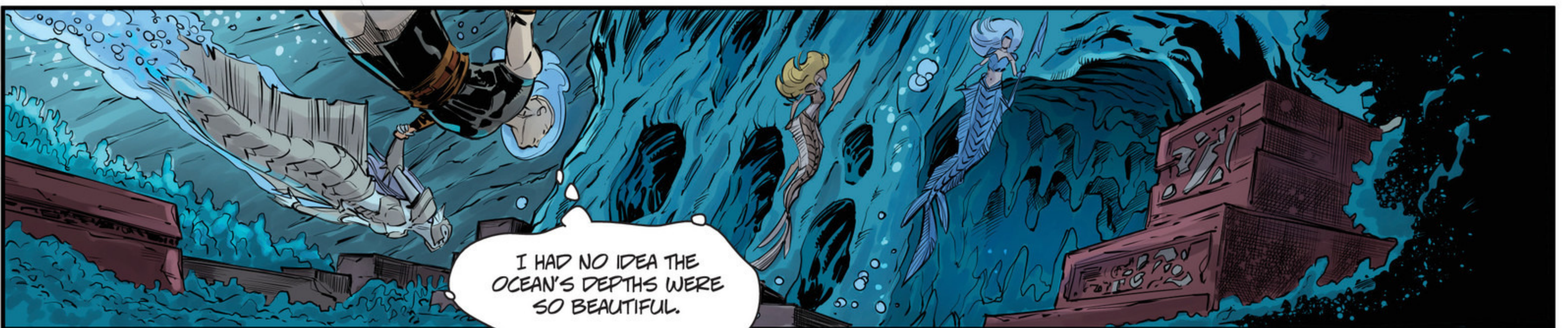
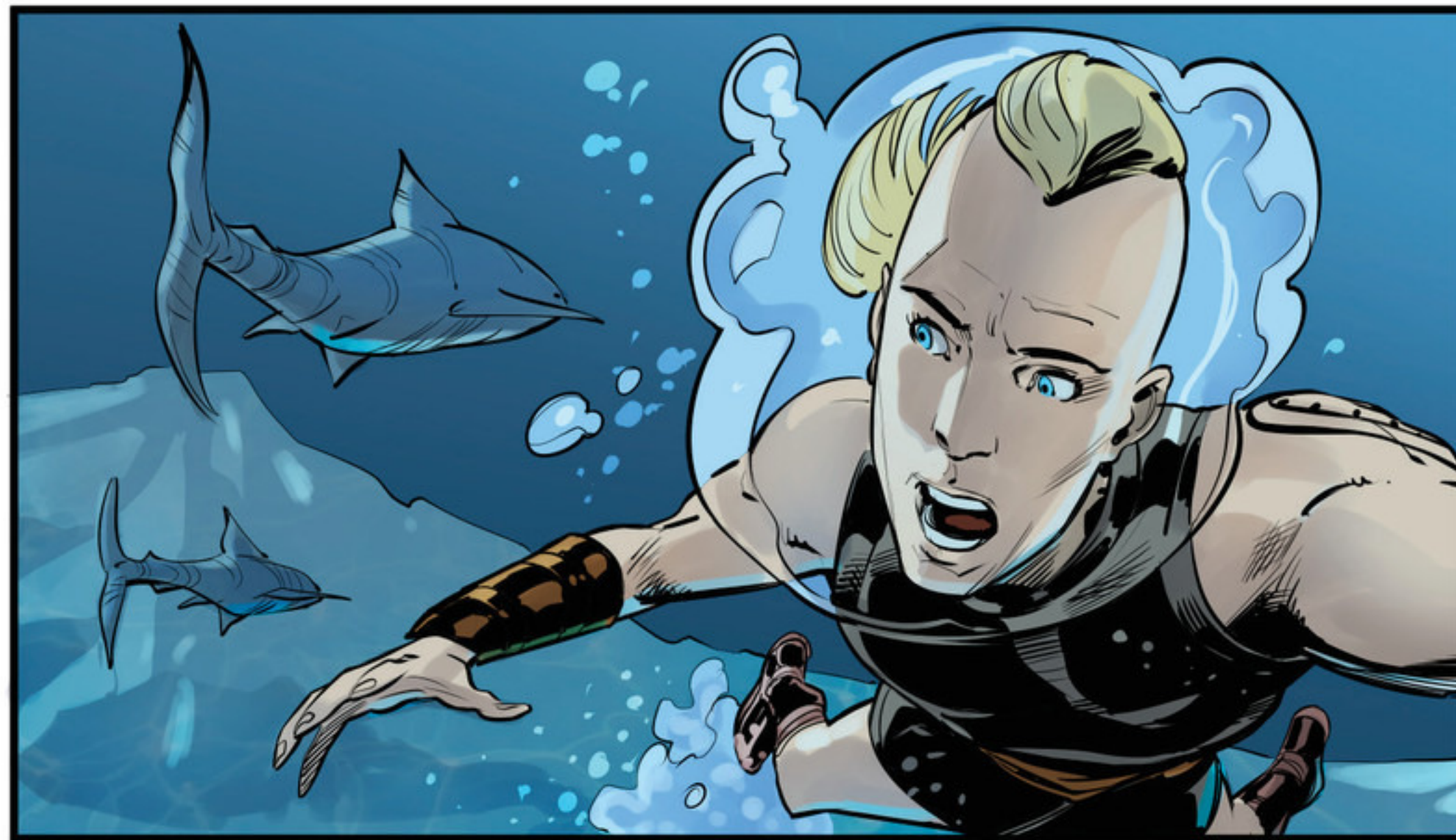
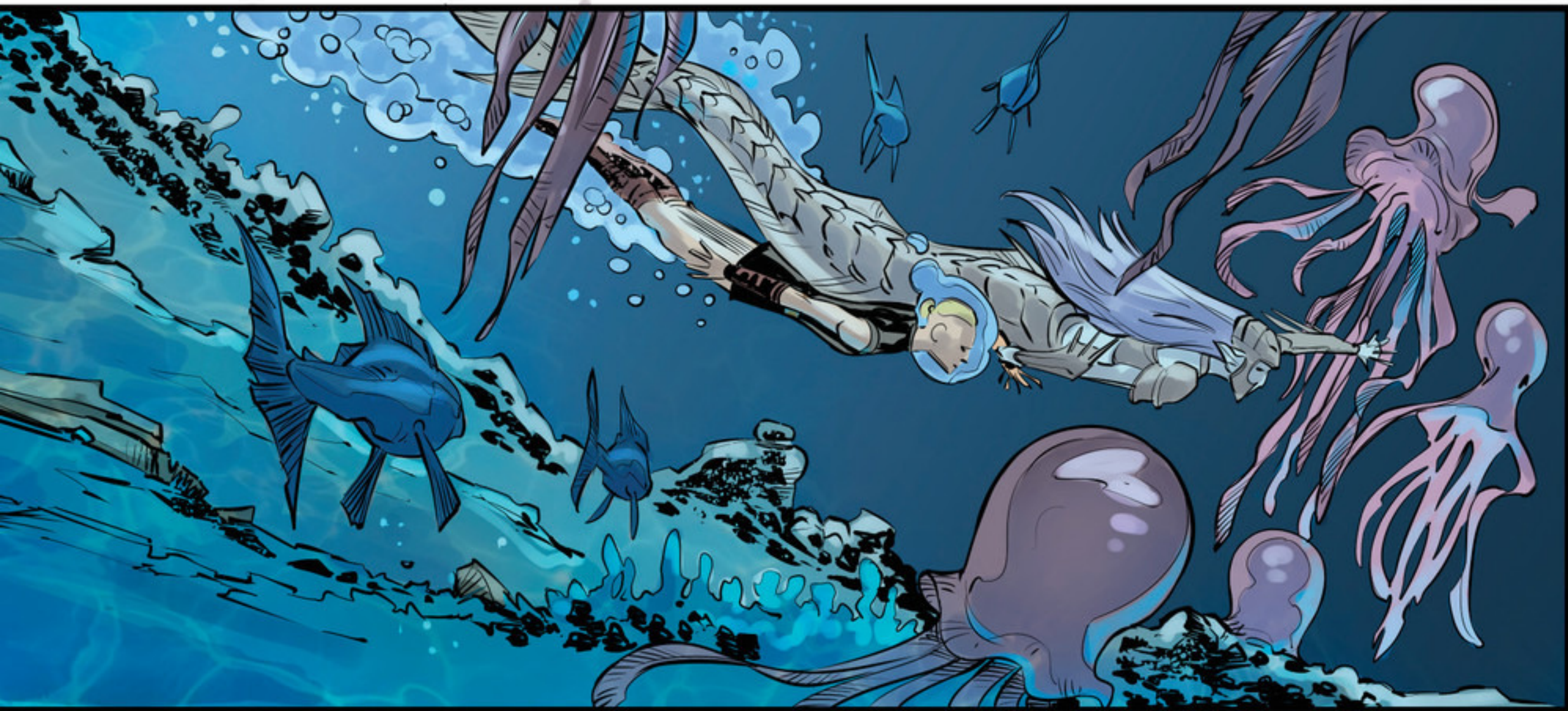
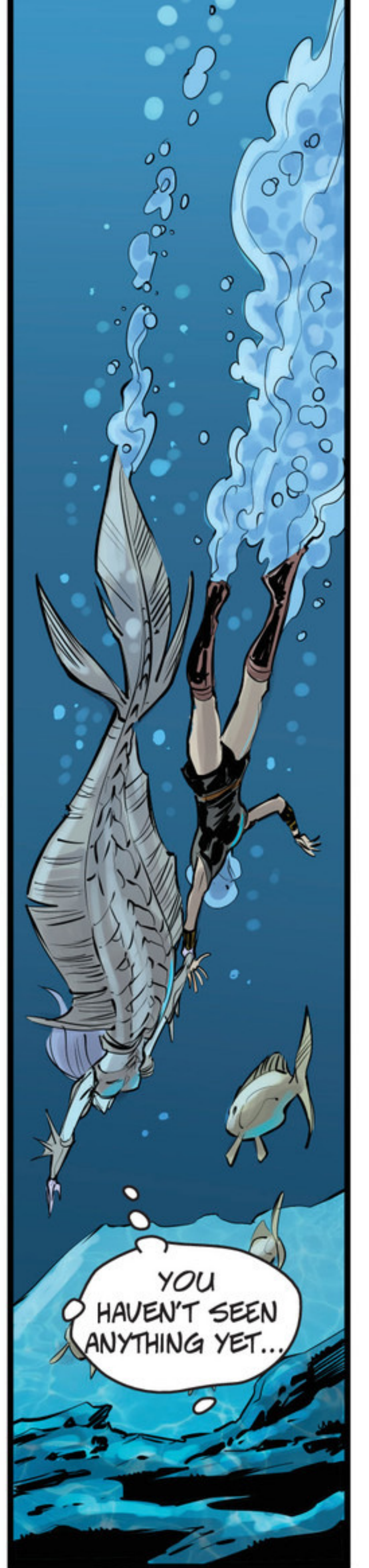
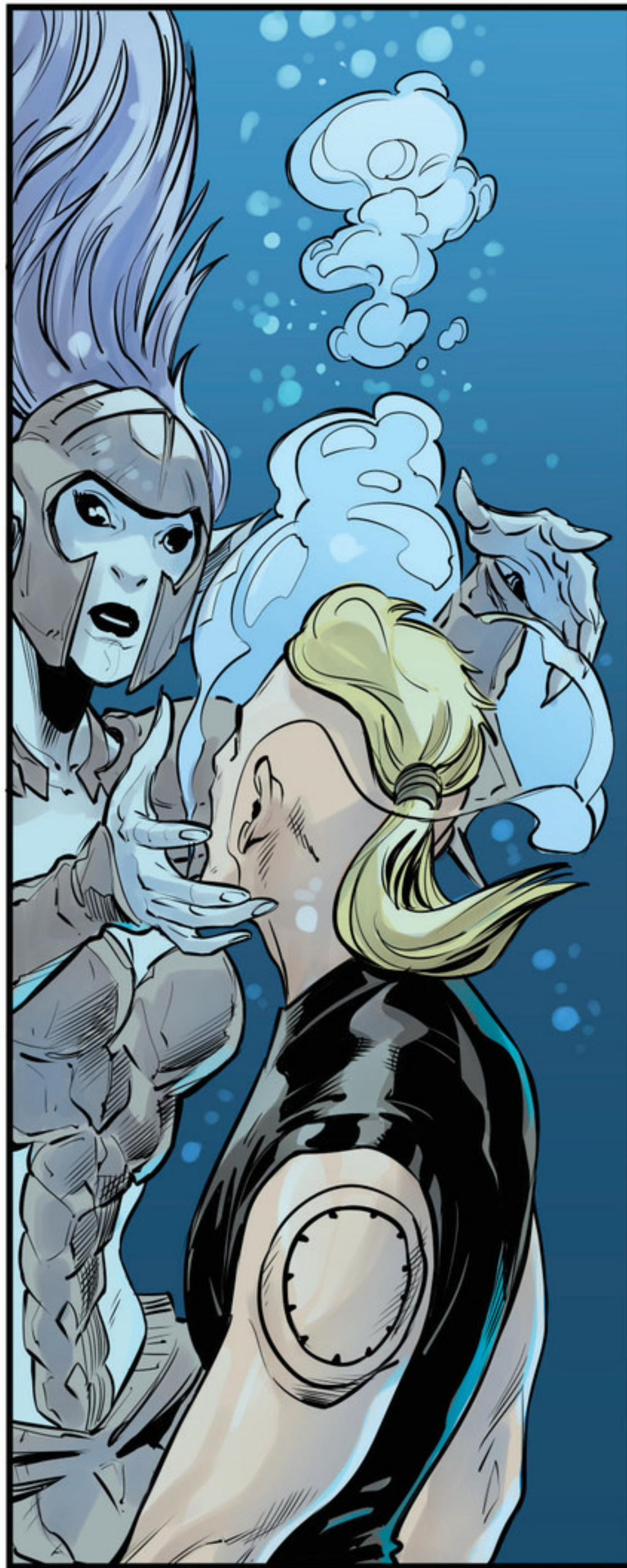
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO
TO CONVINCE YOU?

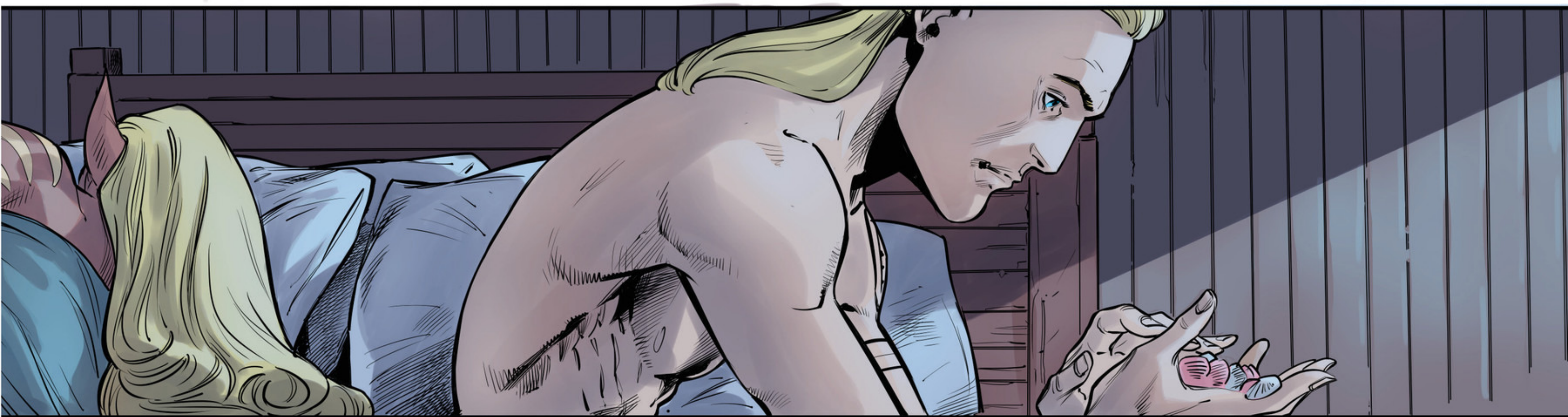
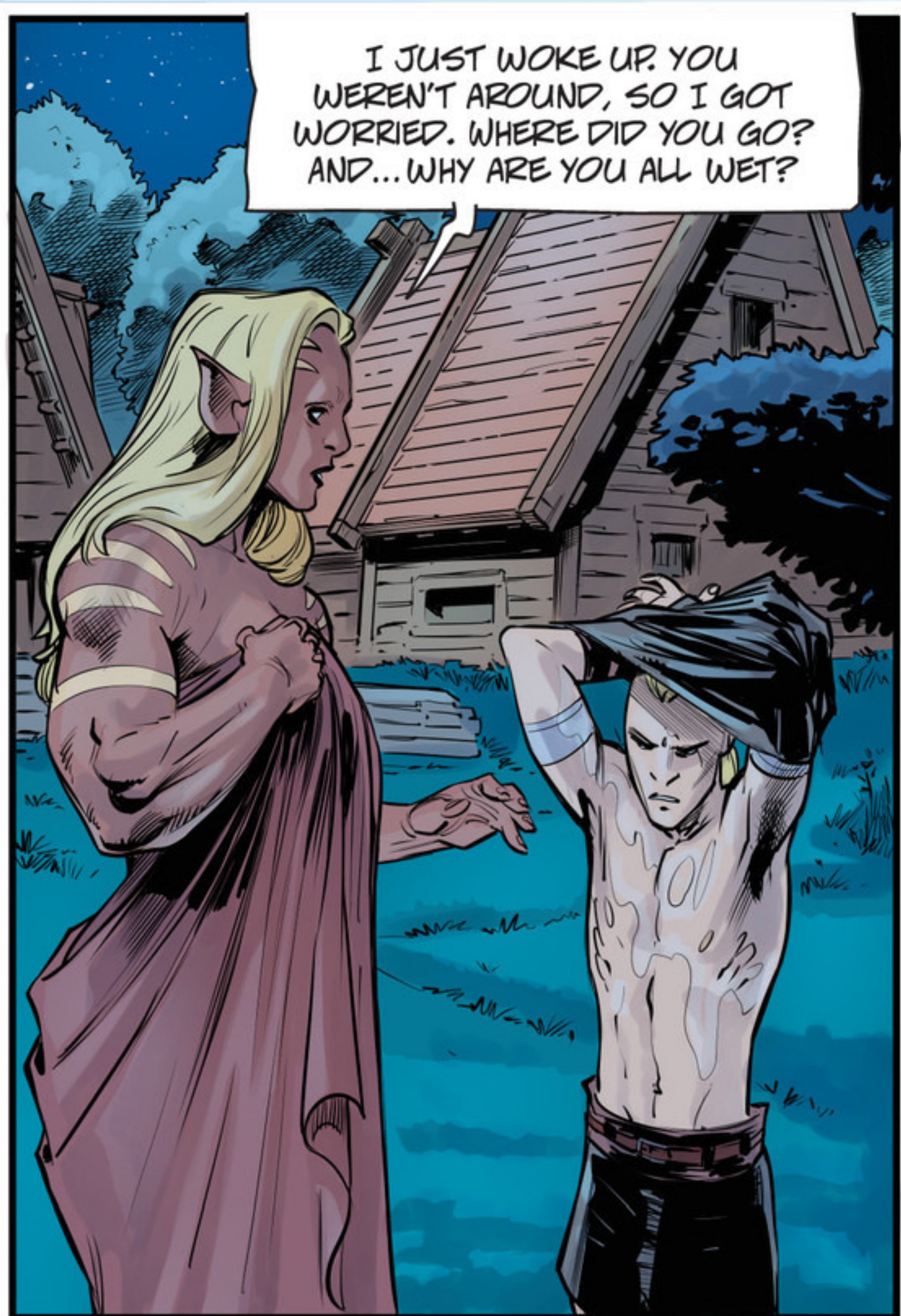


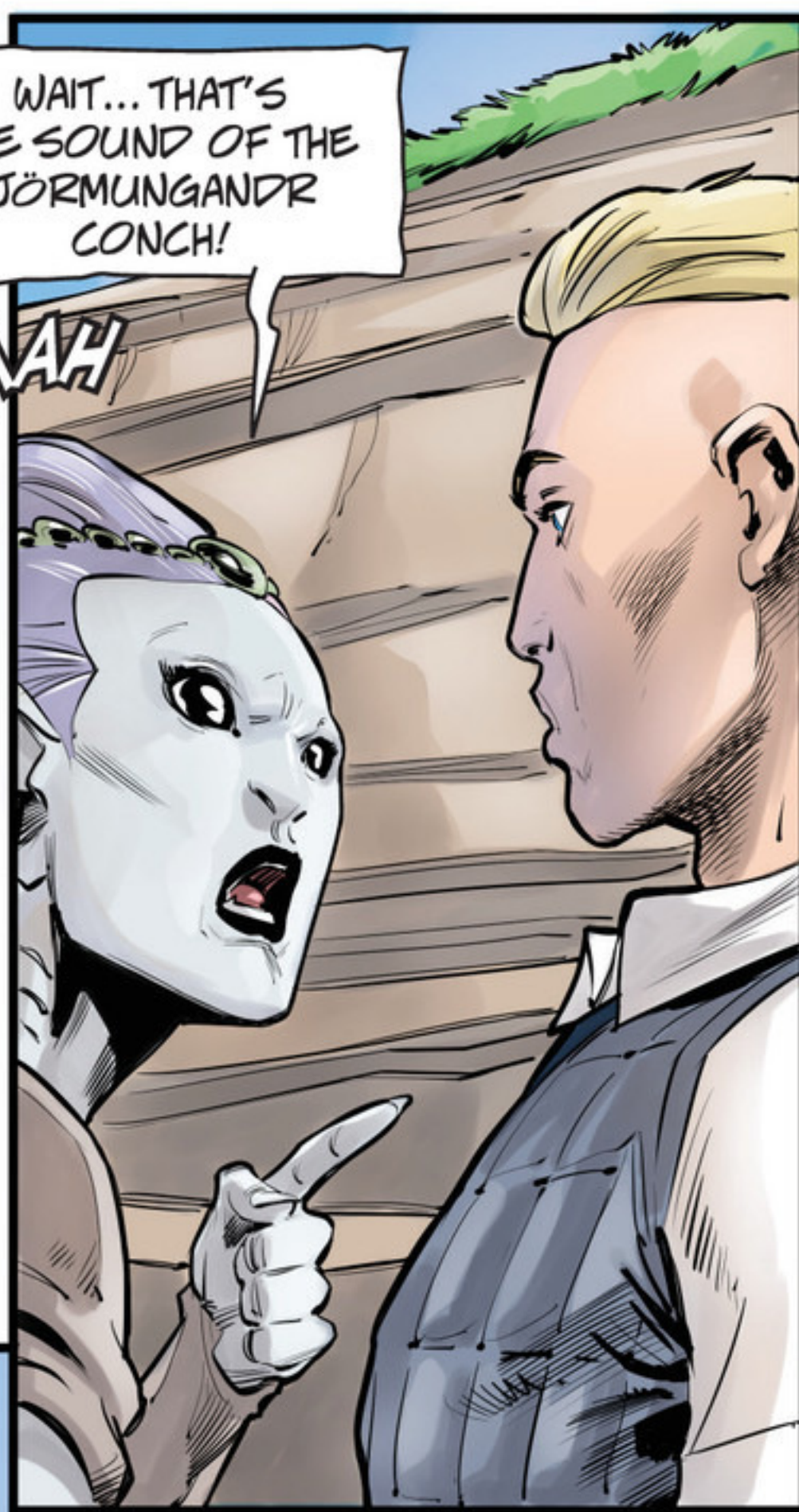
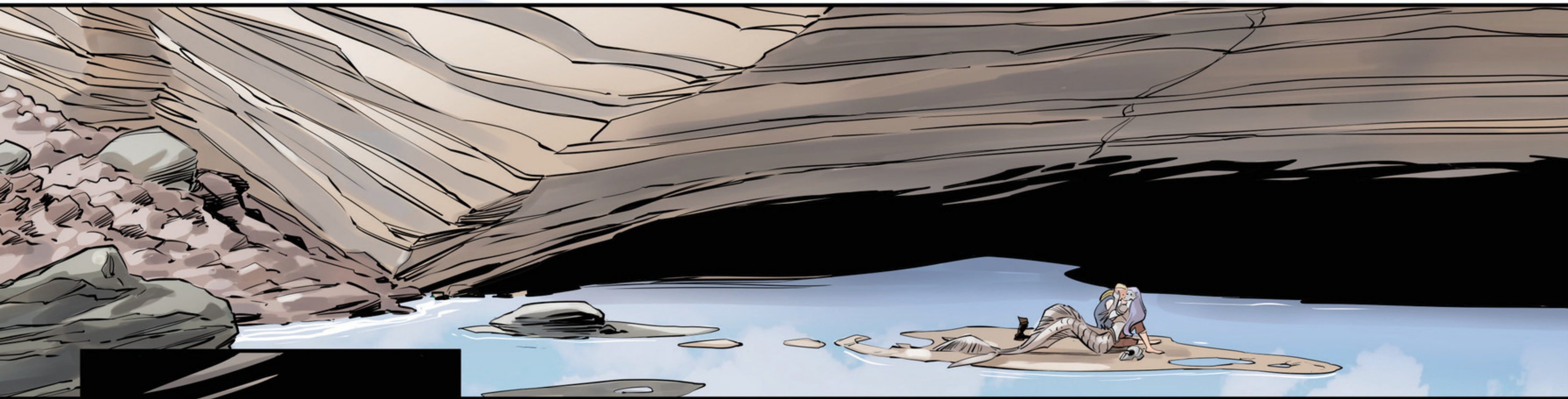
YES. YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL AND
VERY ATTRACTIVE. I'VE NEVER
FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT...



LOOK, I'M
TRUSTING YOU
WITH MY LIFE!







A full-page comic book illustration depicting a dramatic scene. At the top, two characters stand on a rocky cliff edge. The character on the right wears a blue tunic and a flowing red cape, holding a flaming torch aloft. The character on the left is dressed in a grey tunic and brown leggings. Below them, a vast body of water is filled with numerous large, dark, scaly creatures, possibly dragons or giant lizards, swimming towards the shore. Several pterosaurs are shown flying around the cliff. The sky is a pale blue with soft clouds. At the very top, a large sound effect "BRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!!!..." is written in a stylized, jagged font.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? YOU PROMISED NOT TO USE THE CONCH.

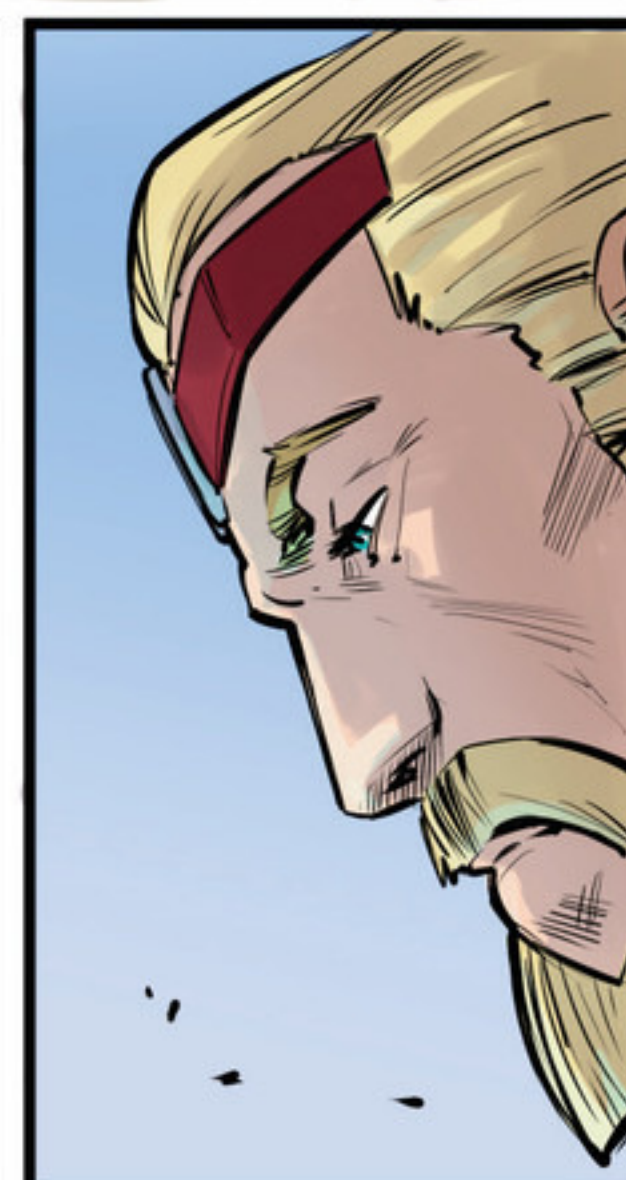
I CAN HAVE IT CARRY OUT DIFFERENT ORDERS DEPENDING ON HOW HARD I BLOW. IT'S AMAZING...

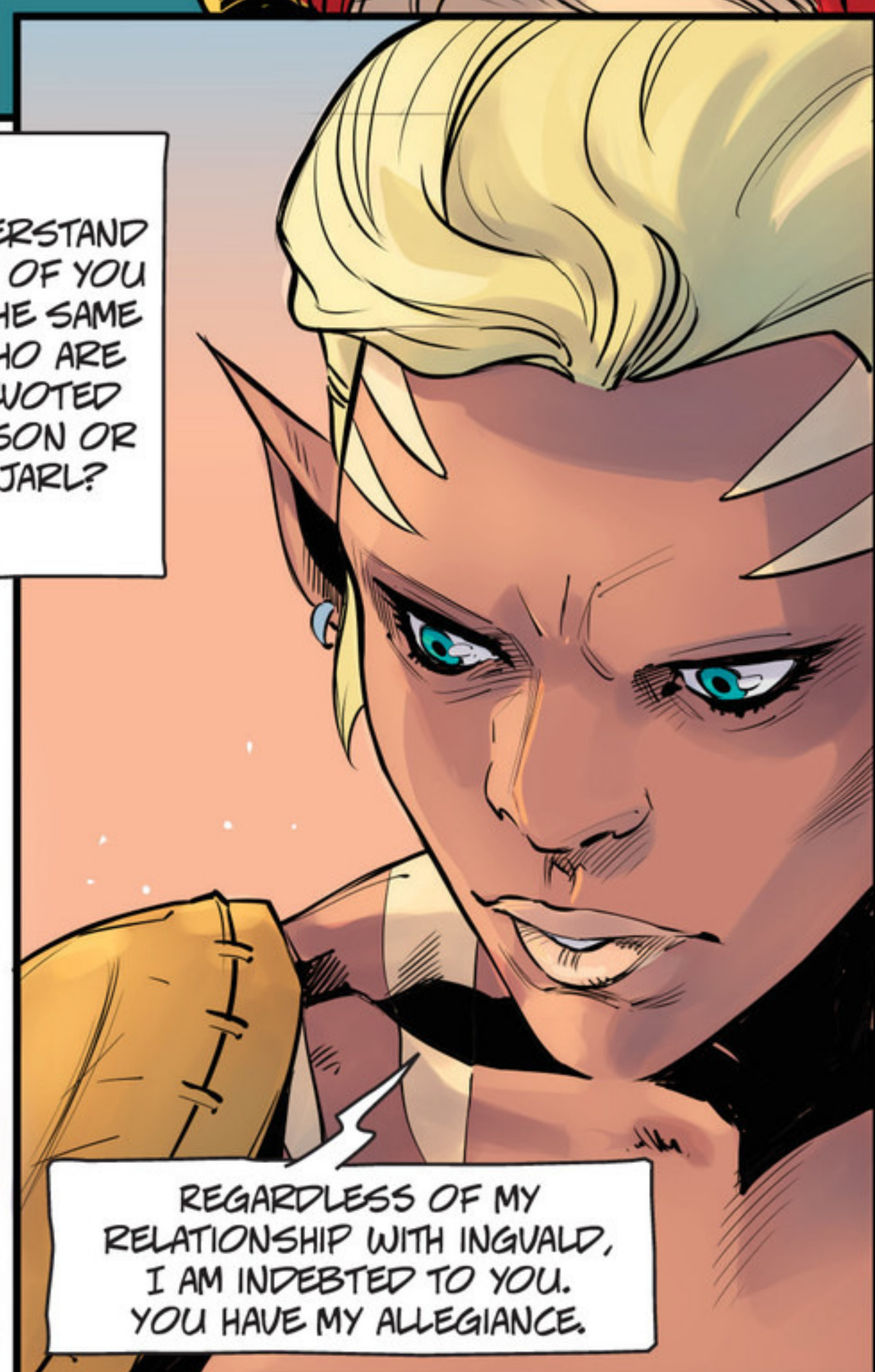
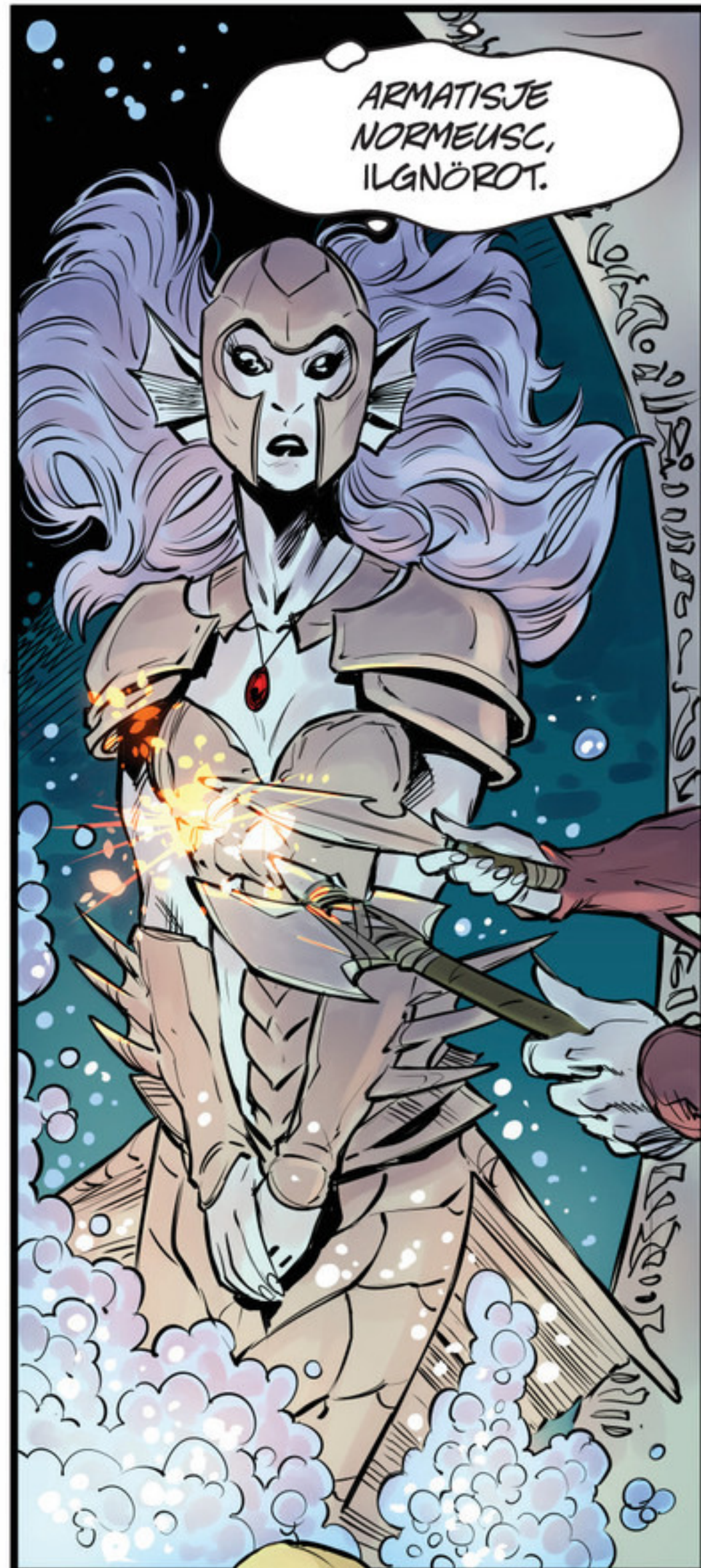
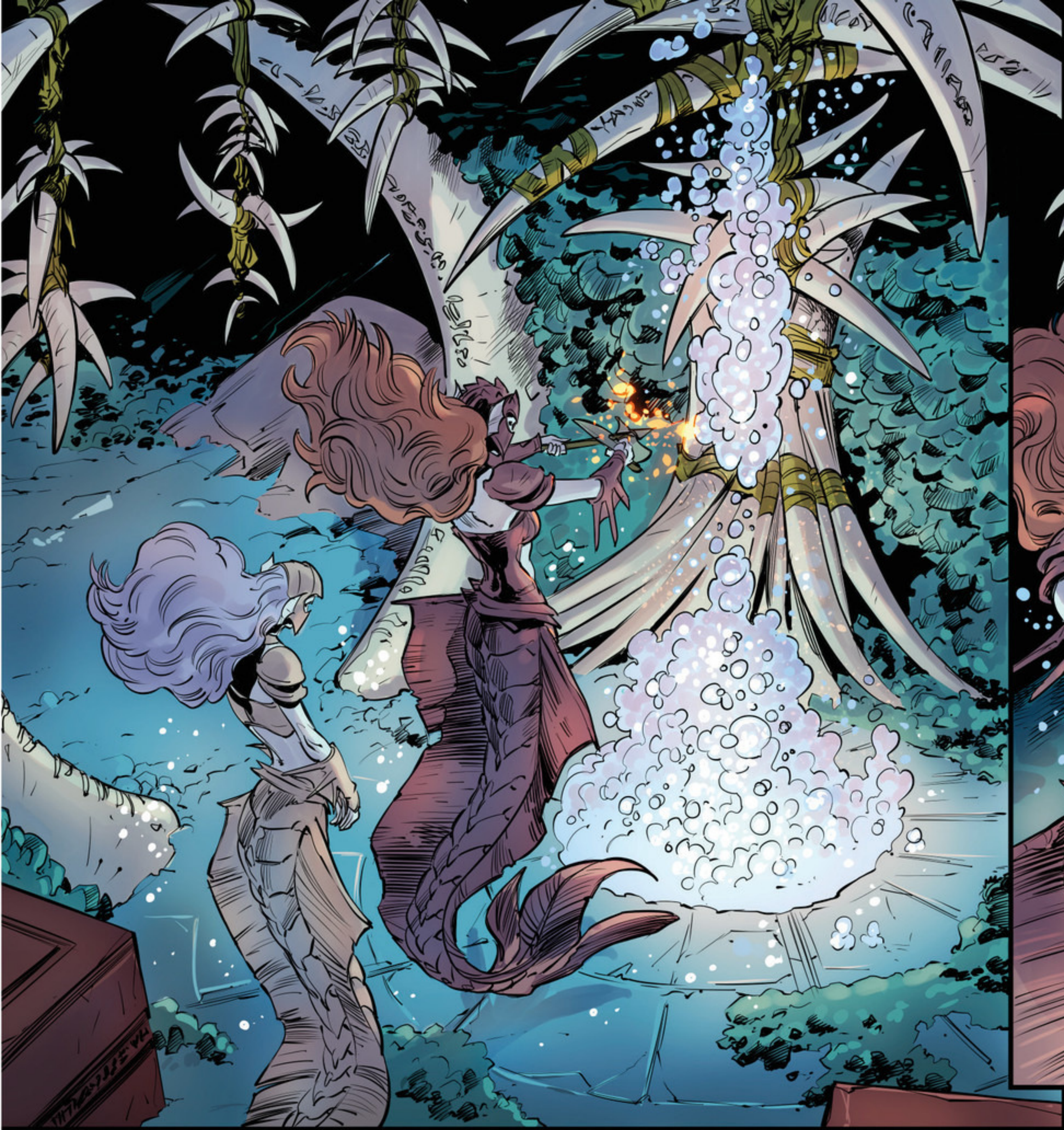
DON'T WORRY, SON. I'M JUST LEARNING TO TAME HIM. THAT WAY, IF THOSE CREATURES COME AFTER US, I'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE THEM A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY.

WHY DOES OUR CLAN
THINK THE SIRENS ARE
ANIMALS? THEY AREN'T!
THEY'RE JUST LIKE US:
THEY **TALK**, THEY **FEEL**,
THEY **THINK**...



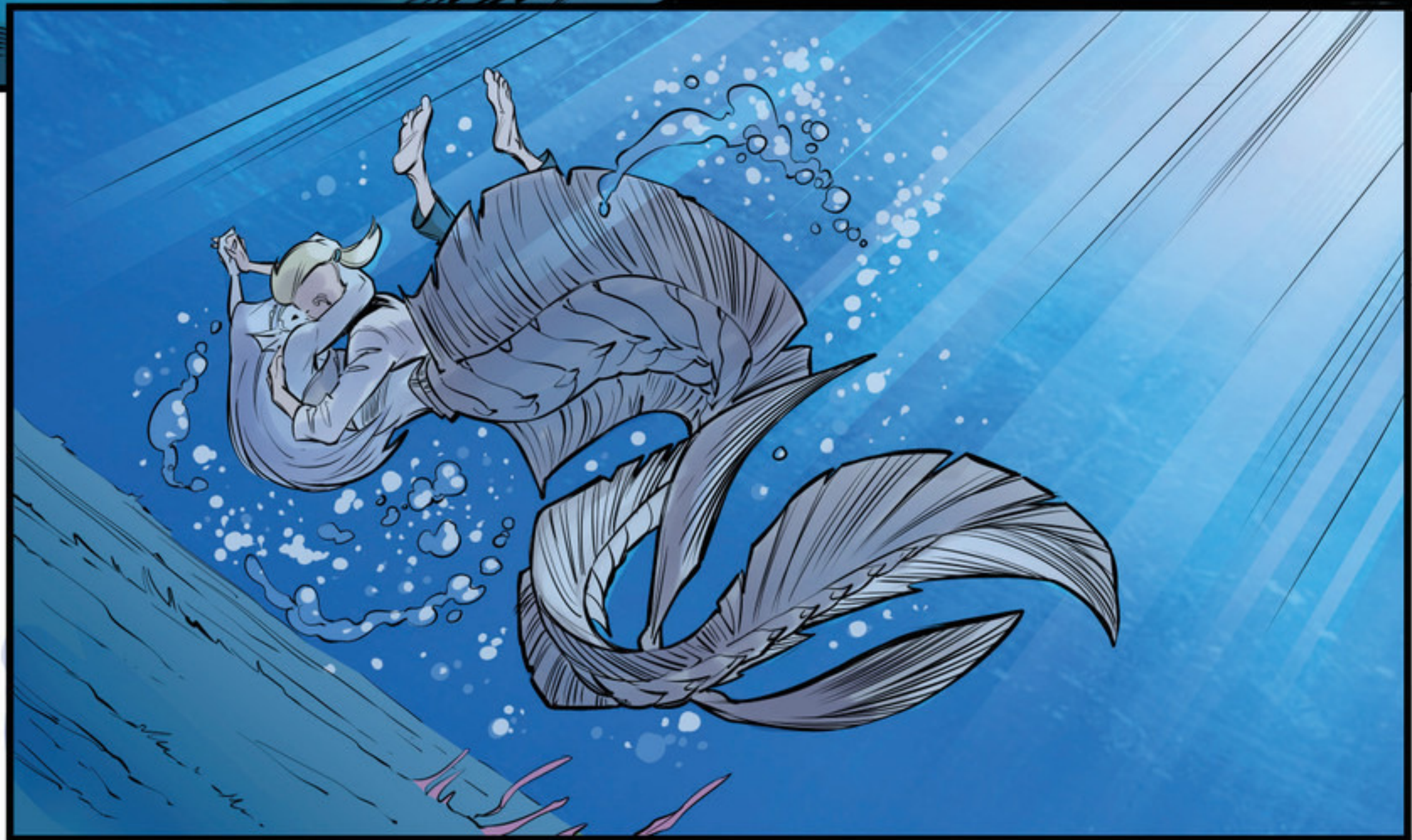
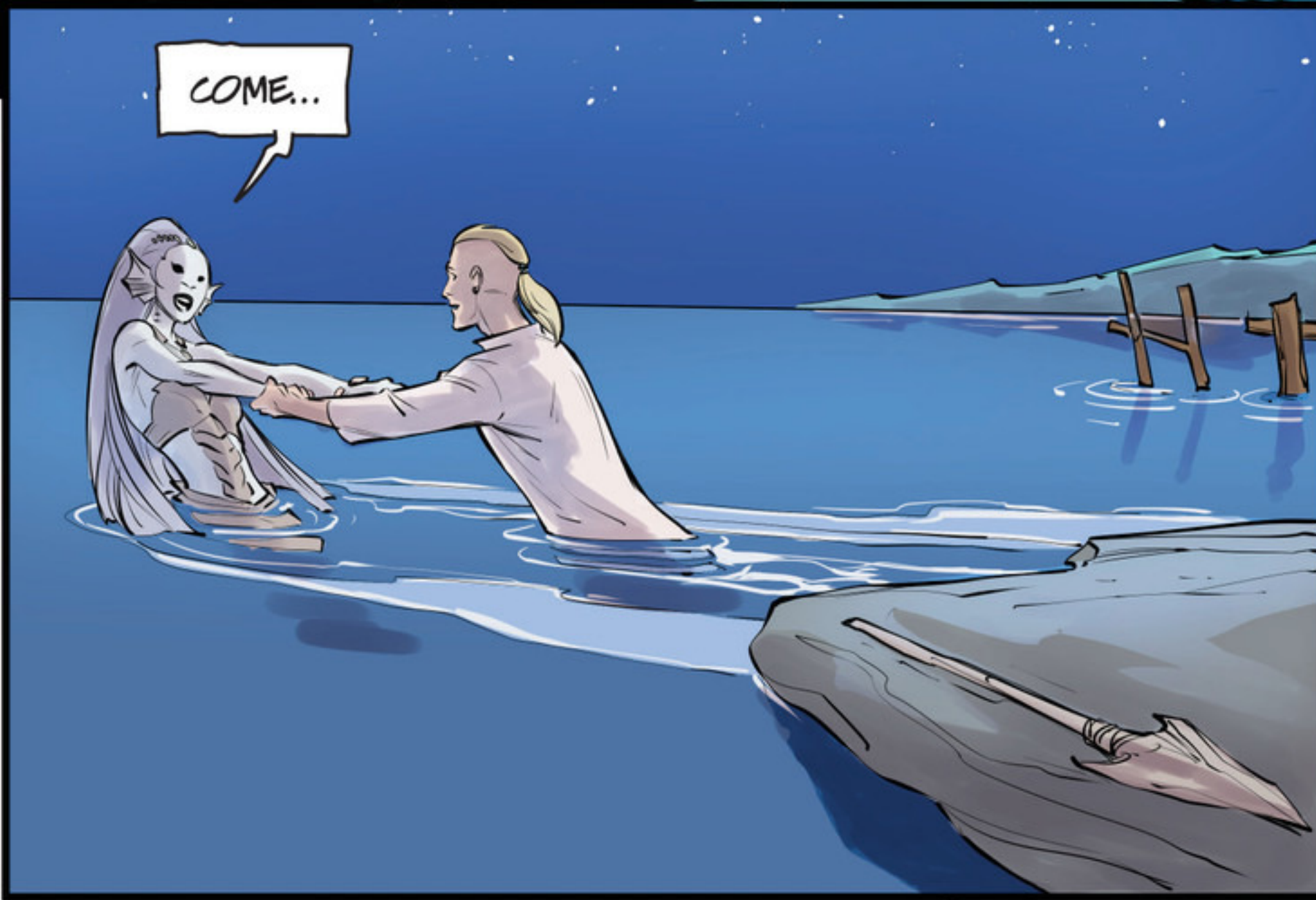
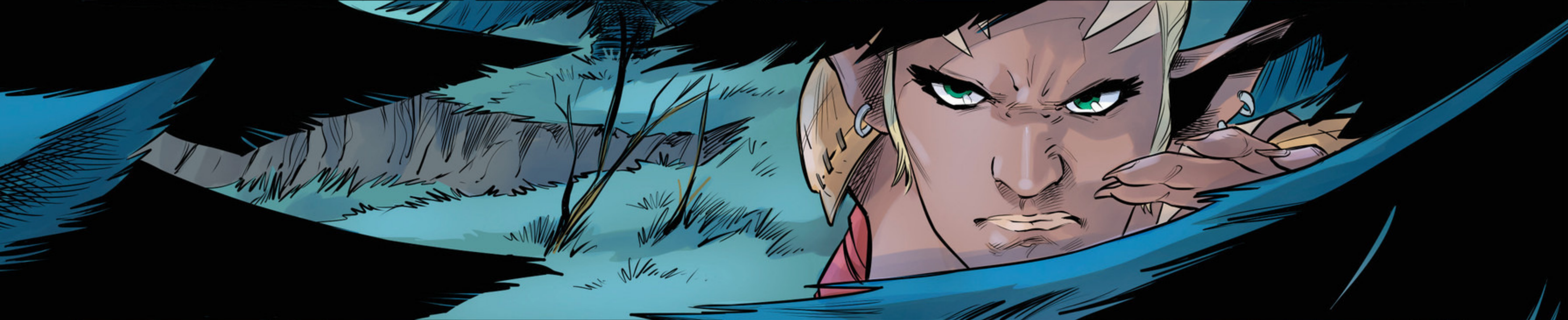
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE SIRENS ARE **MONSTERS**,
THEY **SLAUGHTER** SAILORS.

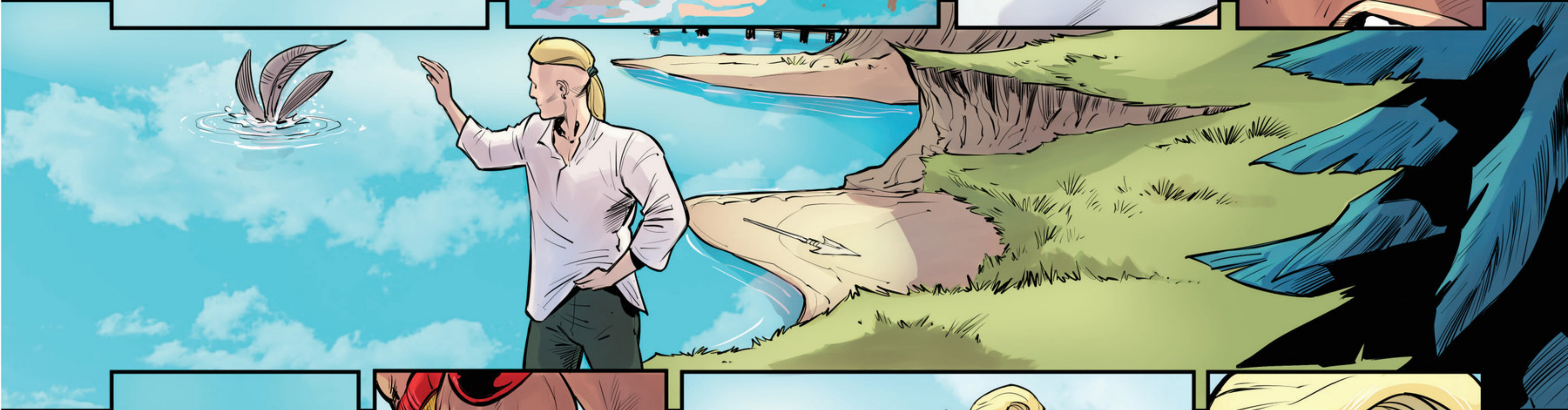
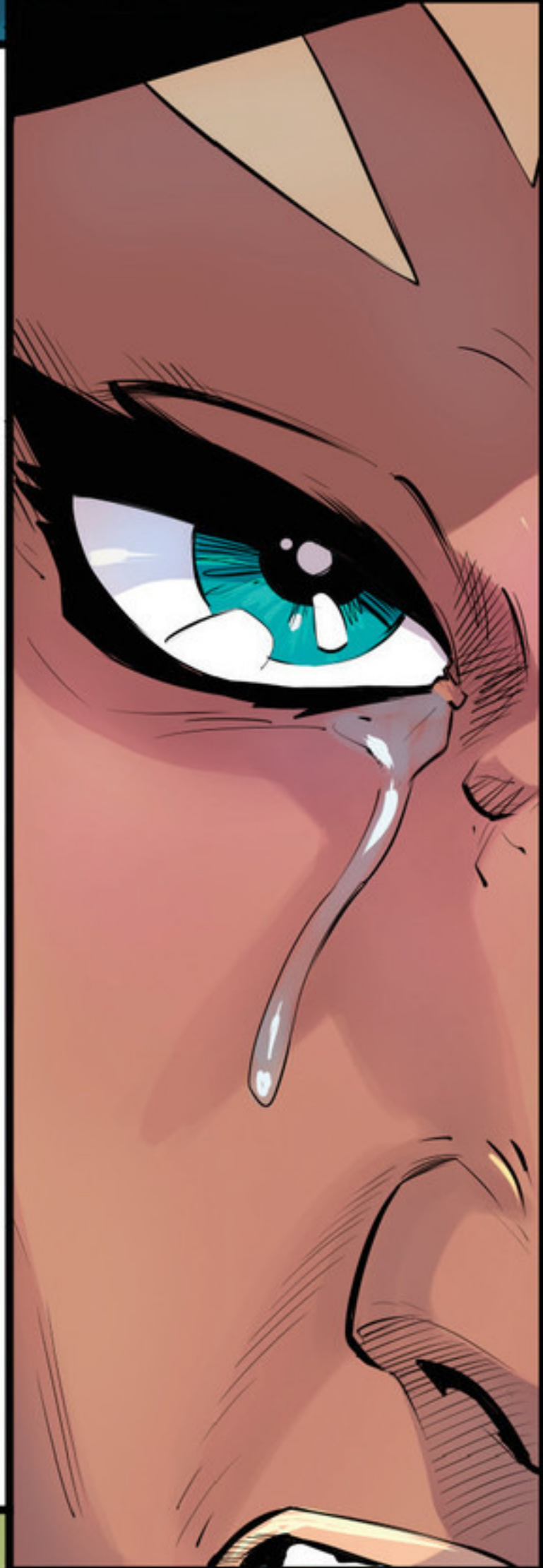
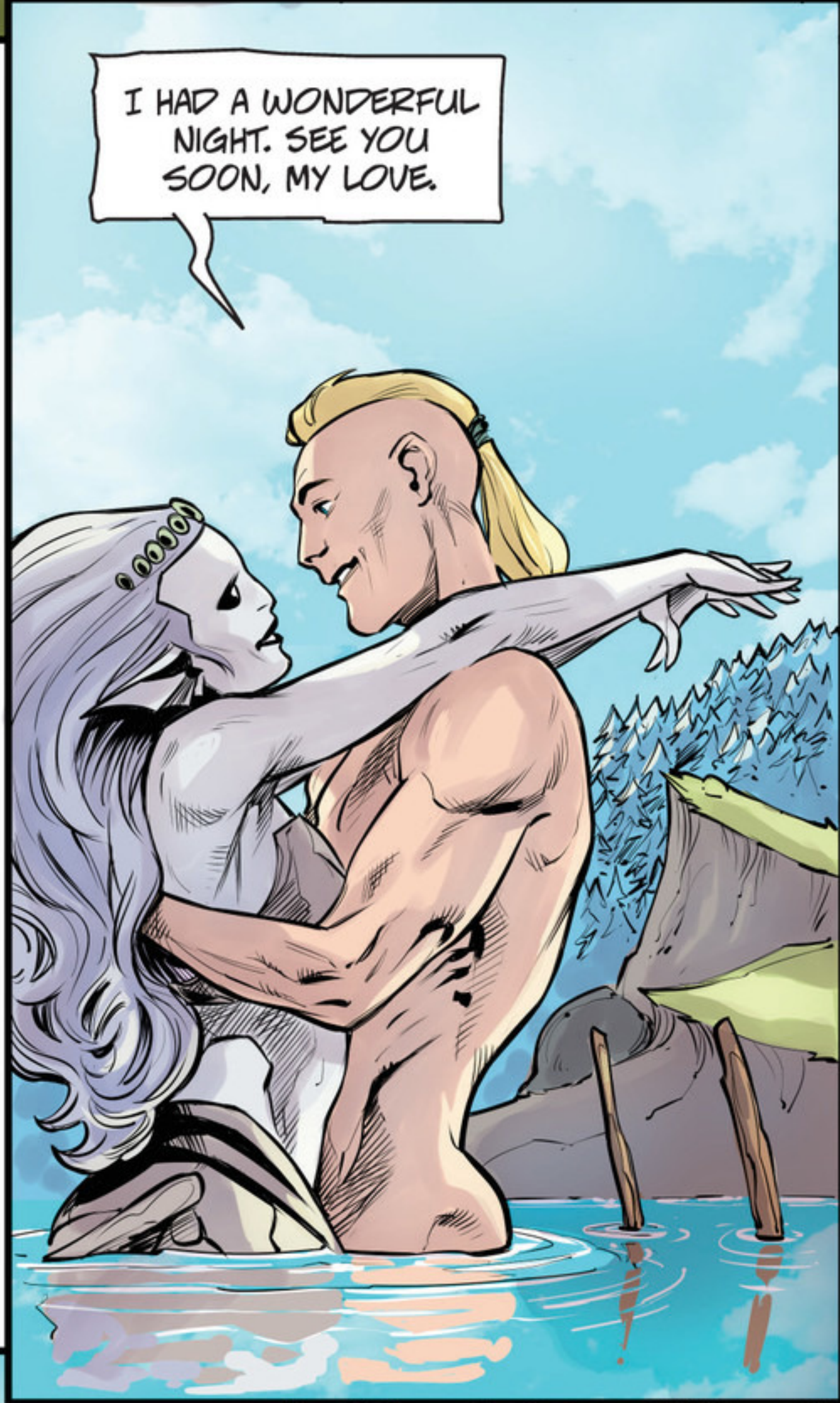
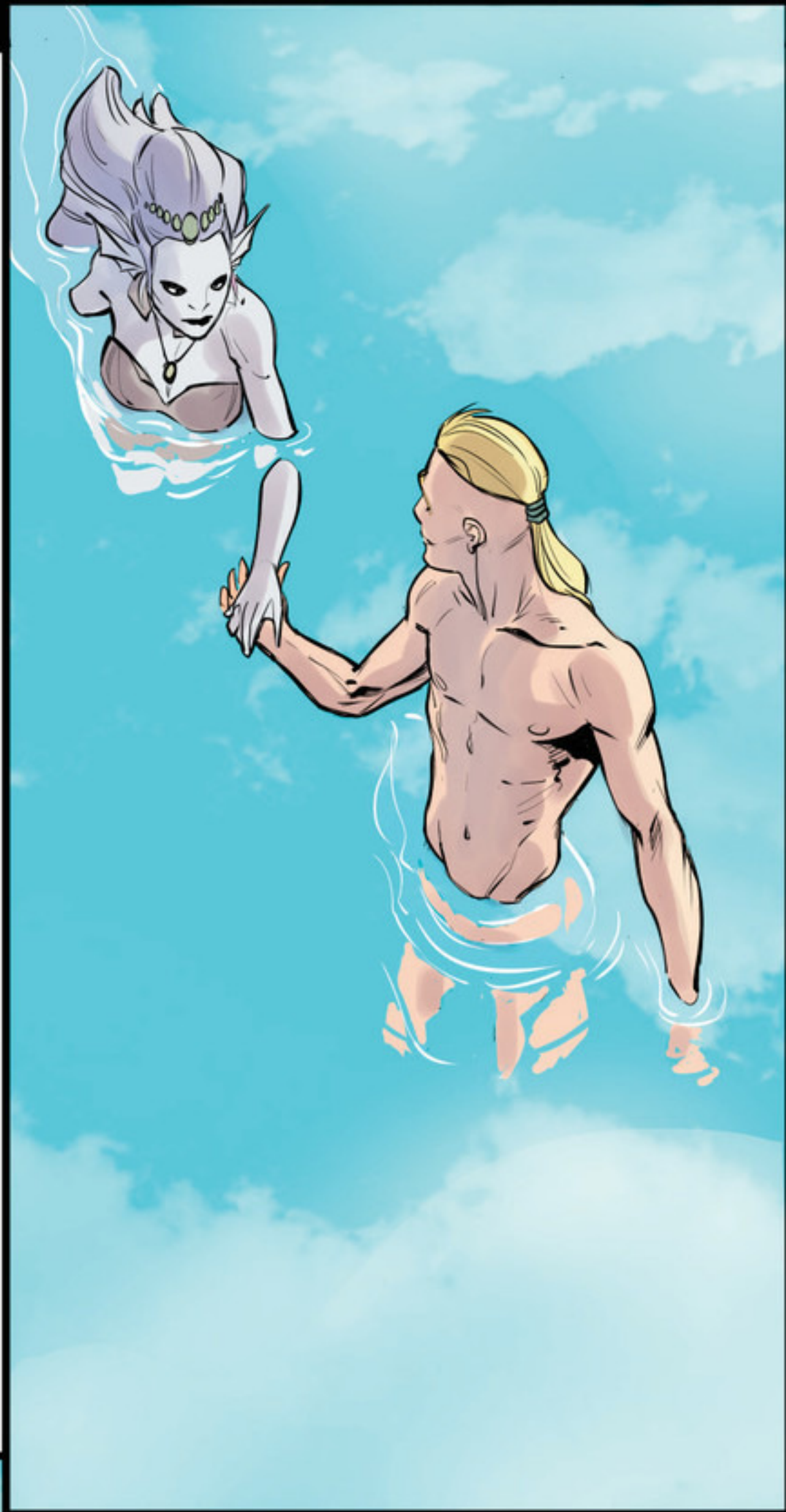
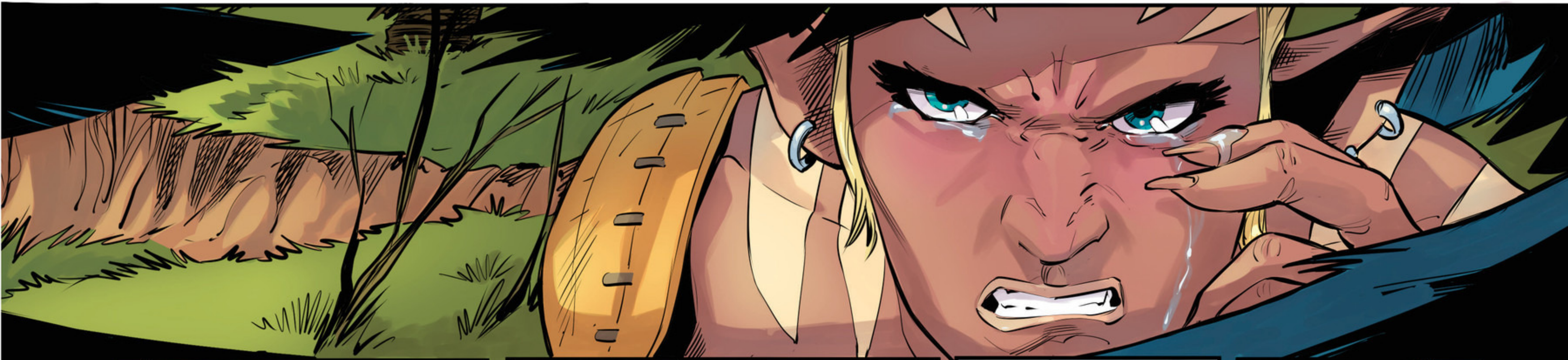






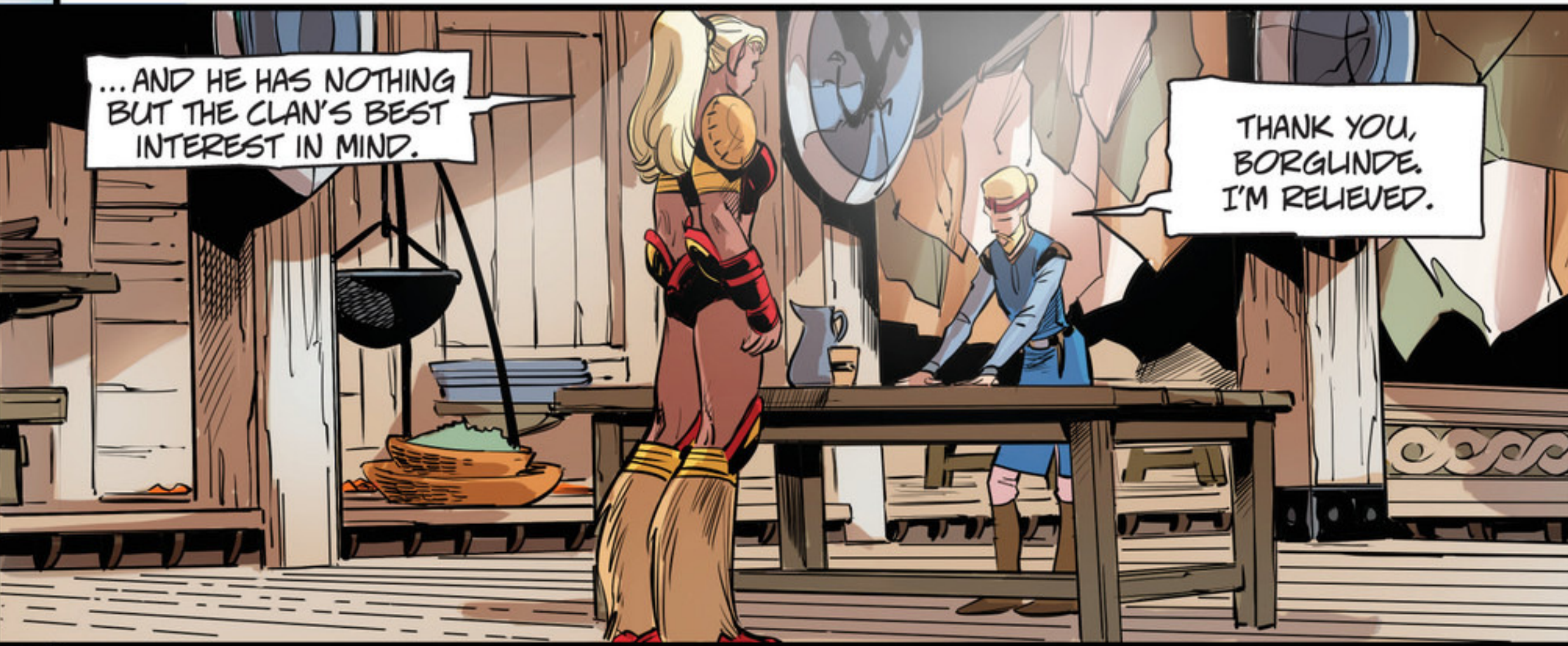
THAT WOULD BE **INCREDIBLE**. WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE HISTORY. IT'S KIND OF LIKE IF THE SKAGERRAK AND THE KATTEGAT COULD MERGE.





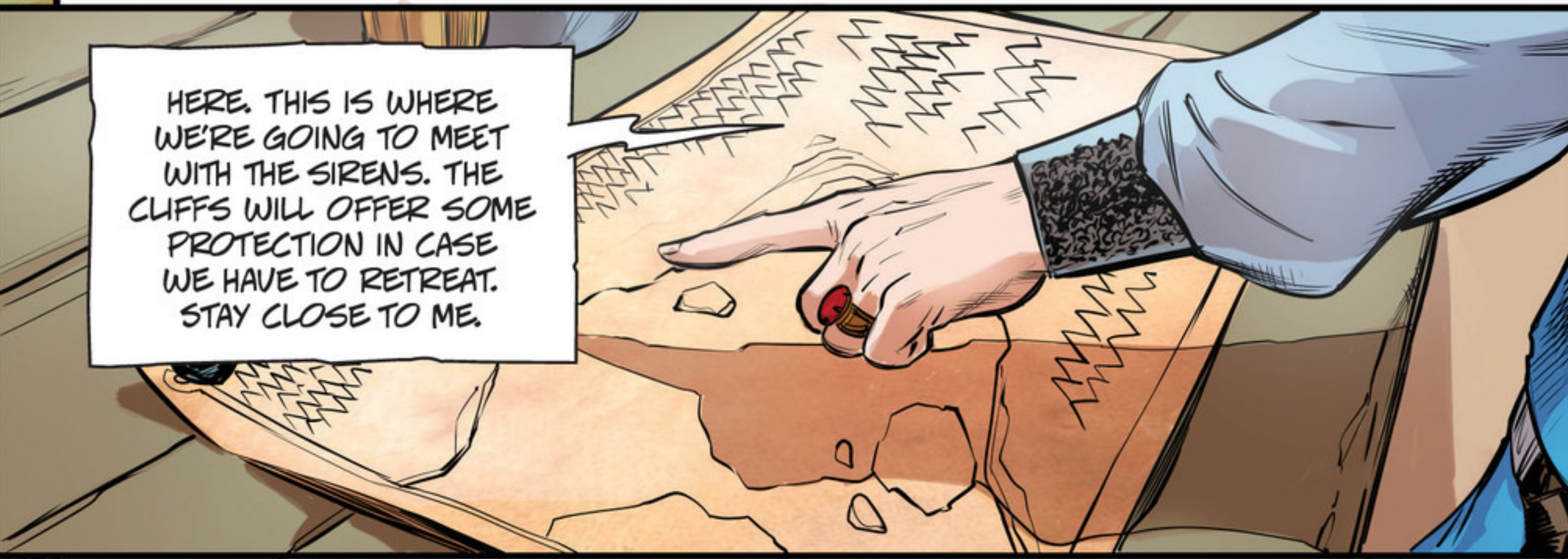


INGVALD IS ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO YOU...



...AND HE HAS NOTHING BUT THE CLAN'S BEST INTEREST IN MIND.

THANK YOU, BORGLINDE. I'M RELIEVED.



HERE. THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GOING TO MEET WITH THE SIRENS. THE CLIFFS WILL OFFER SOME PROTECTION IN CASE WE HAVE TO RETREAT. STAY CLOSE TO ME.



OF COURSE, BUT YOU KNOW... THE SIRENS CAN'T HURT US ON DRY LAND.



I'LL KEEP THE CONCH WITH ME JUST IN CASE. THEY WON'T DARE TO DO ANYTHING IF THEY SEE IT.

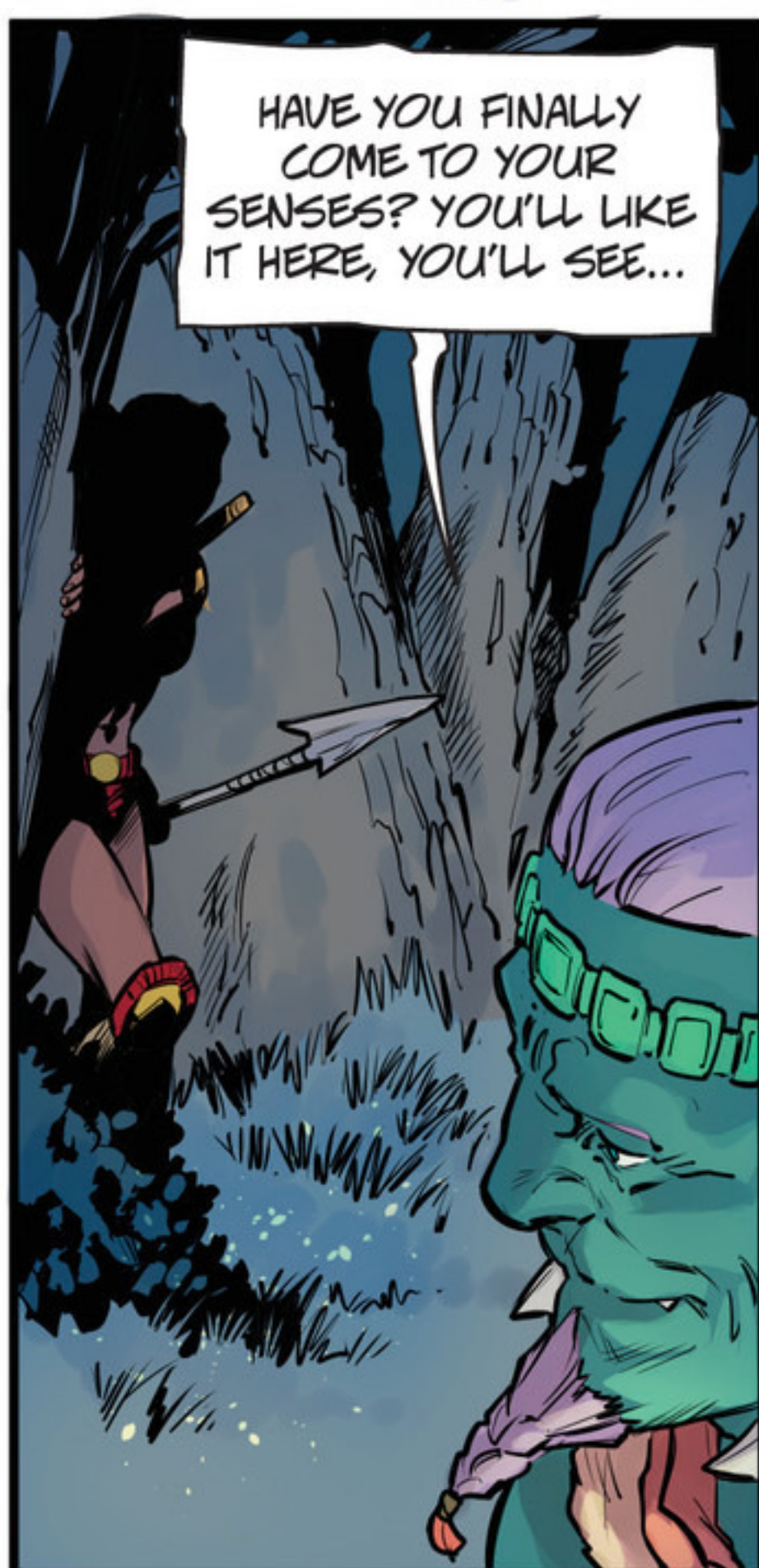
WHAT IF IT HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT? THE SIRENS COULD SENSE A TRAP AND IMMEDIATELY SWIM AWAY.

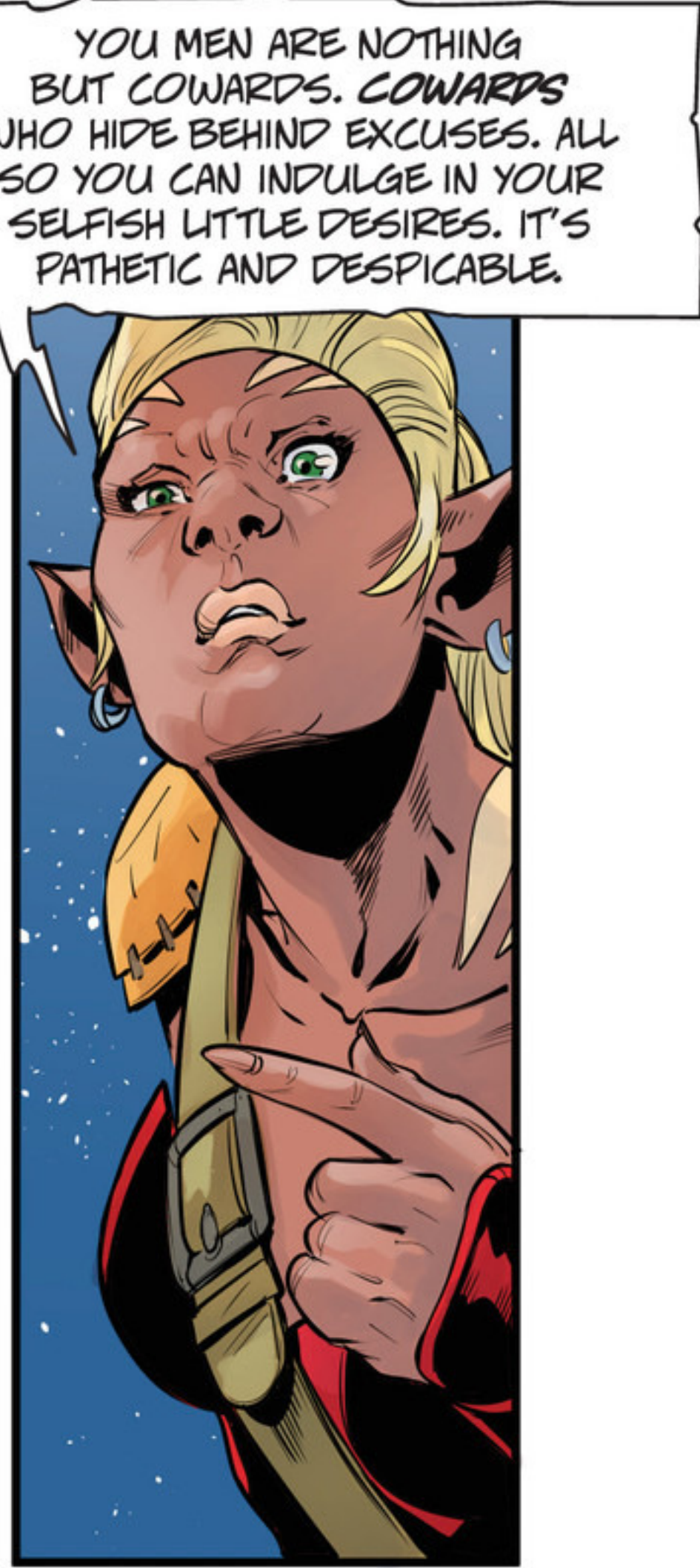
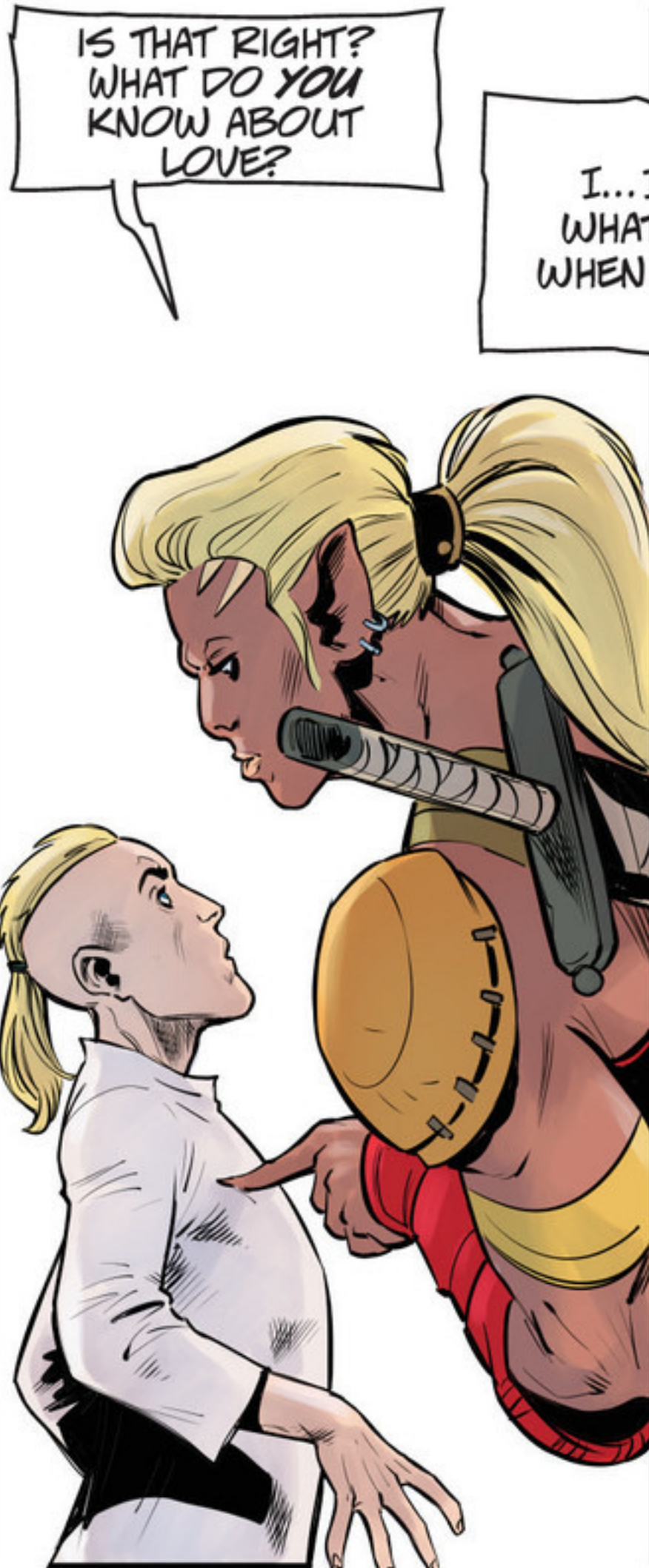
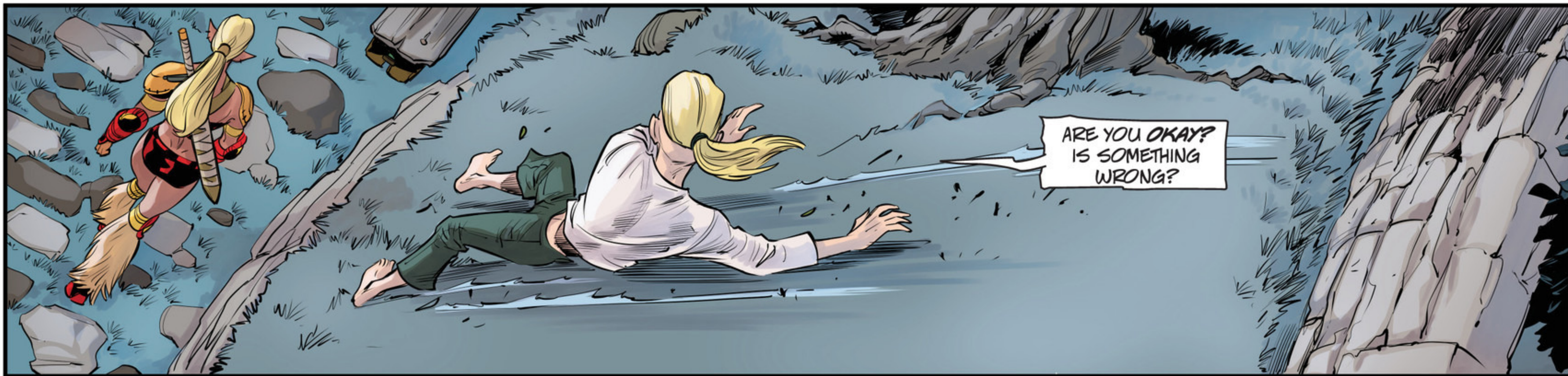


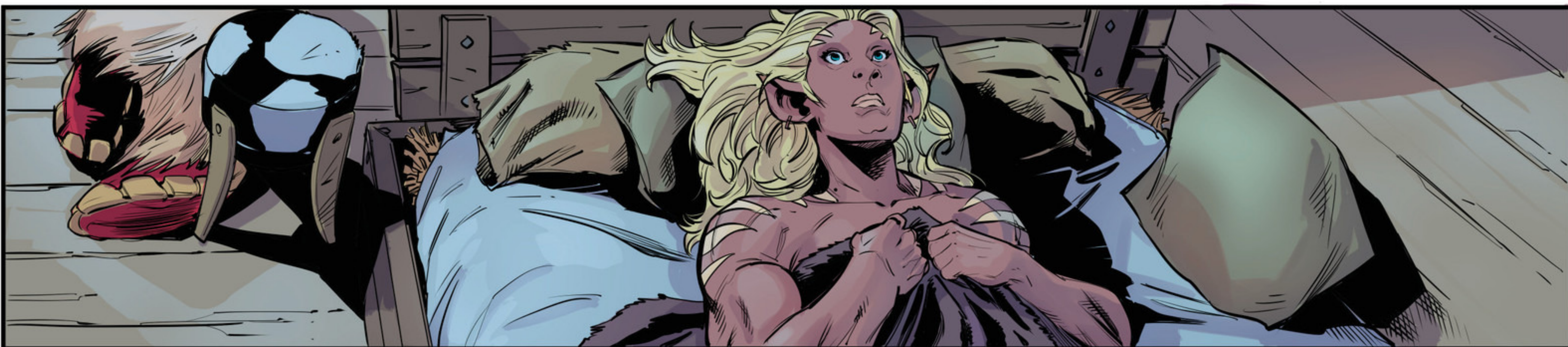
NO MATTER, ARCHERS WILL BE HIDING BEHIND THE ROCKS TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY.

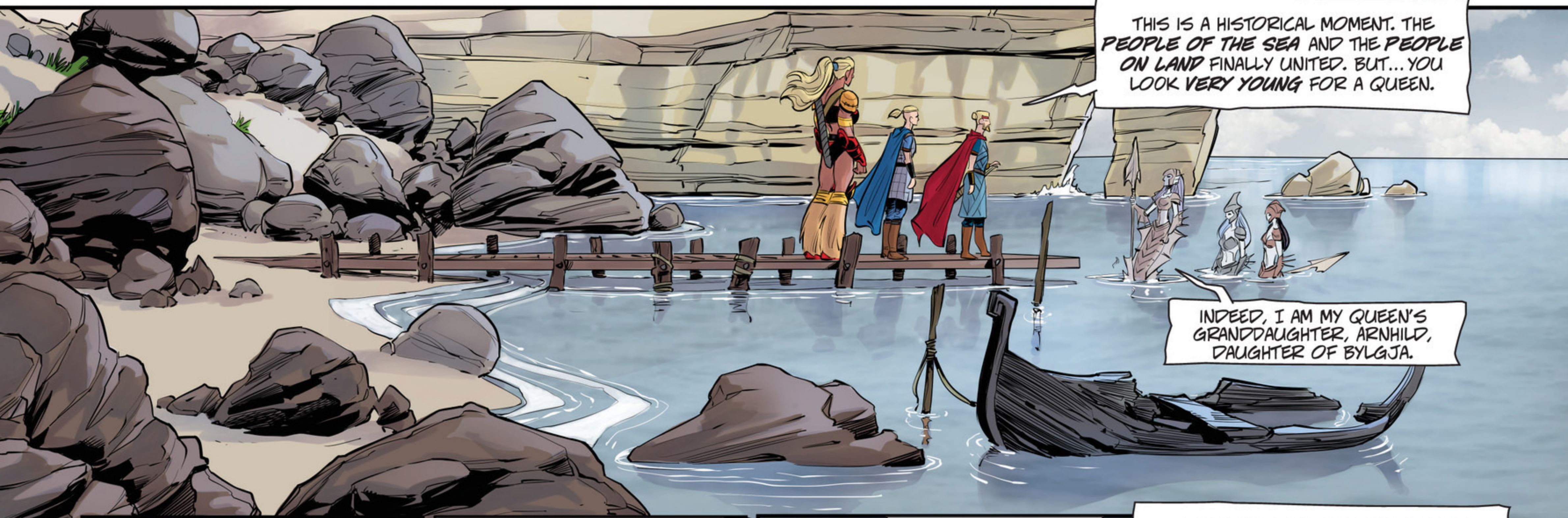


SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE IT ALL PLANNED OUT.









THIS IS A HISTORICAL MOMENT. THE PEOPLE OF THE SEA AND THE PEOPLE ON LAND FINALLY UNITED. BUT... YOU LOOK VERY YOUNG FOR A QUEEN.

INDEED, I AM MY QUEEN'S GRANDDAUGHTER, ARNHILD, DAUGHTER OF BYLGJA.



WHAT? YOU'RE NOT THE QUEEN OF THE SIRENS?

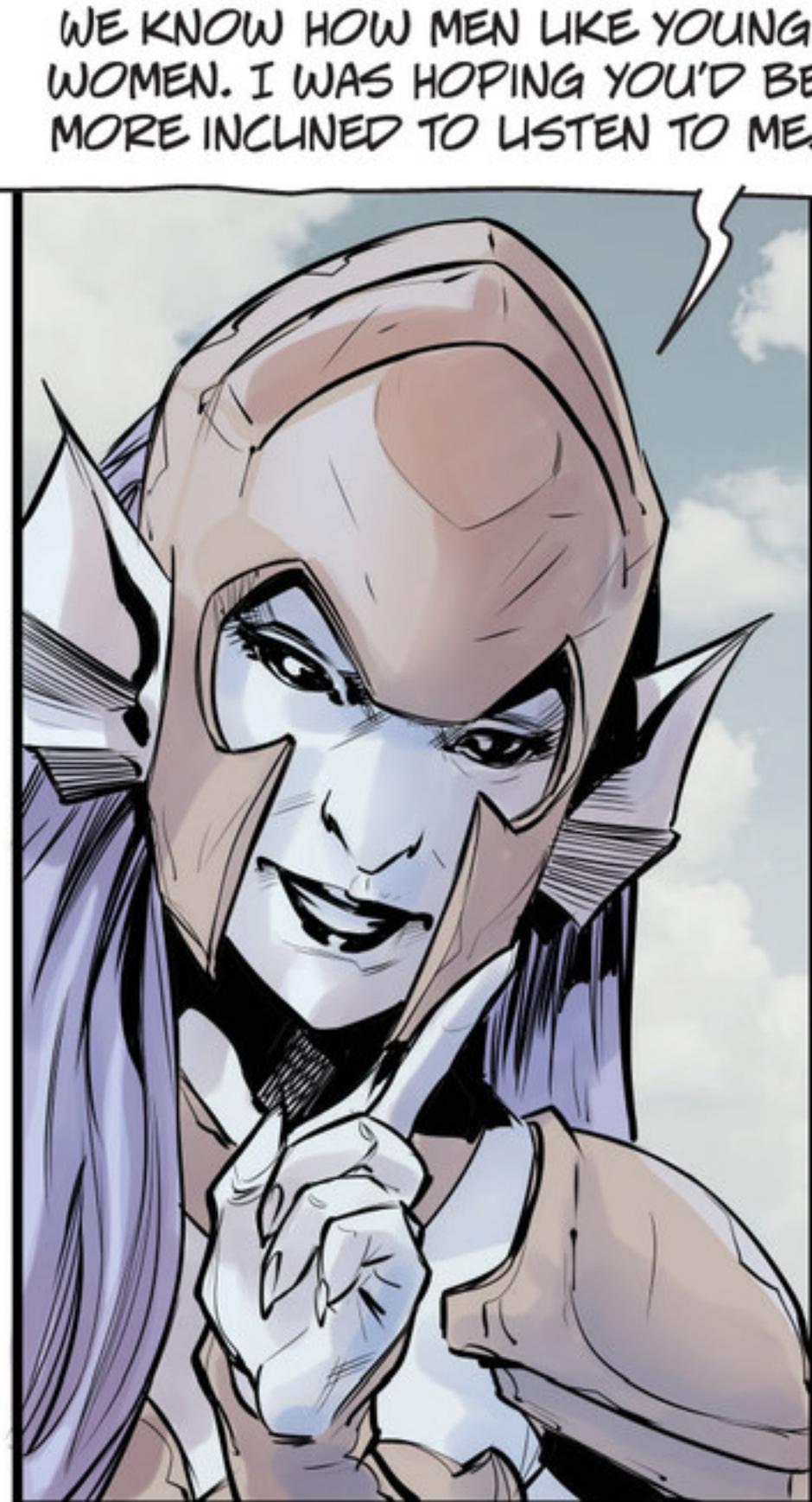


IS THIS A JOKE, INGVALD? AM I BEING MADE A FOOL OF?

NO FATHER, THIS IS NOT A JOKE.



NO ONE'S MAKING A FOOL OF YOU, NORSE.



WE KNOW HOW MEN LIKE YOUNG WOMEN. I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE MORE INCLINED TO LISTEN TO ME.



HAHAHAHA! BY THE GODS, HOW DO YOU KNOW US SO WELL?



WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE A BAD FEELING...

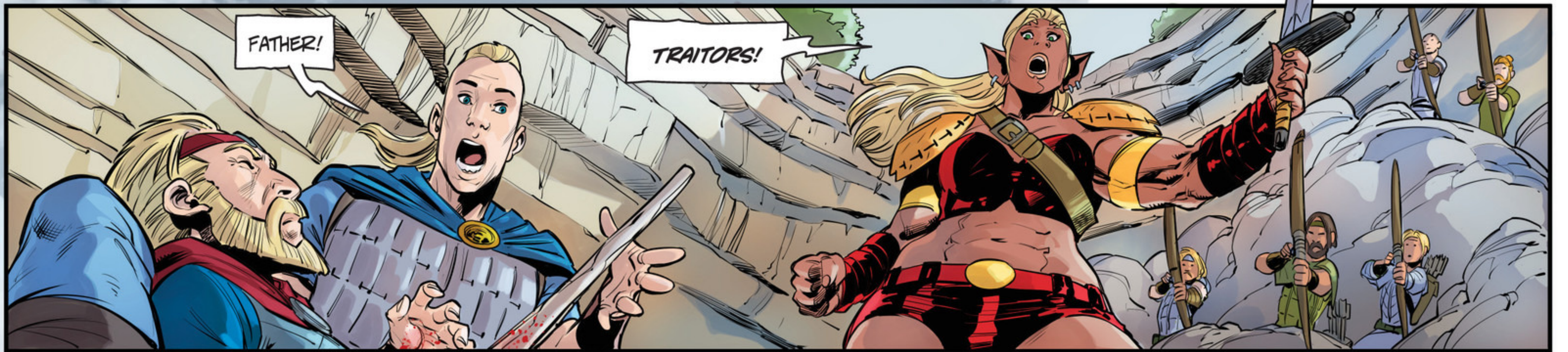




THAT SPEAR...
WHAT'S GOING
ON...?

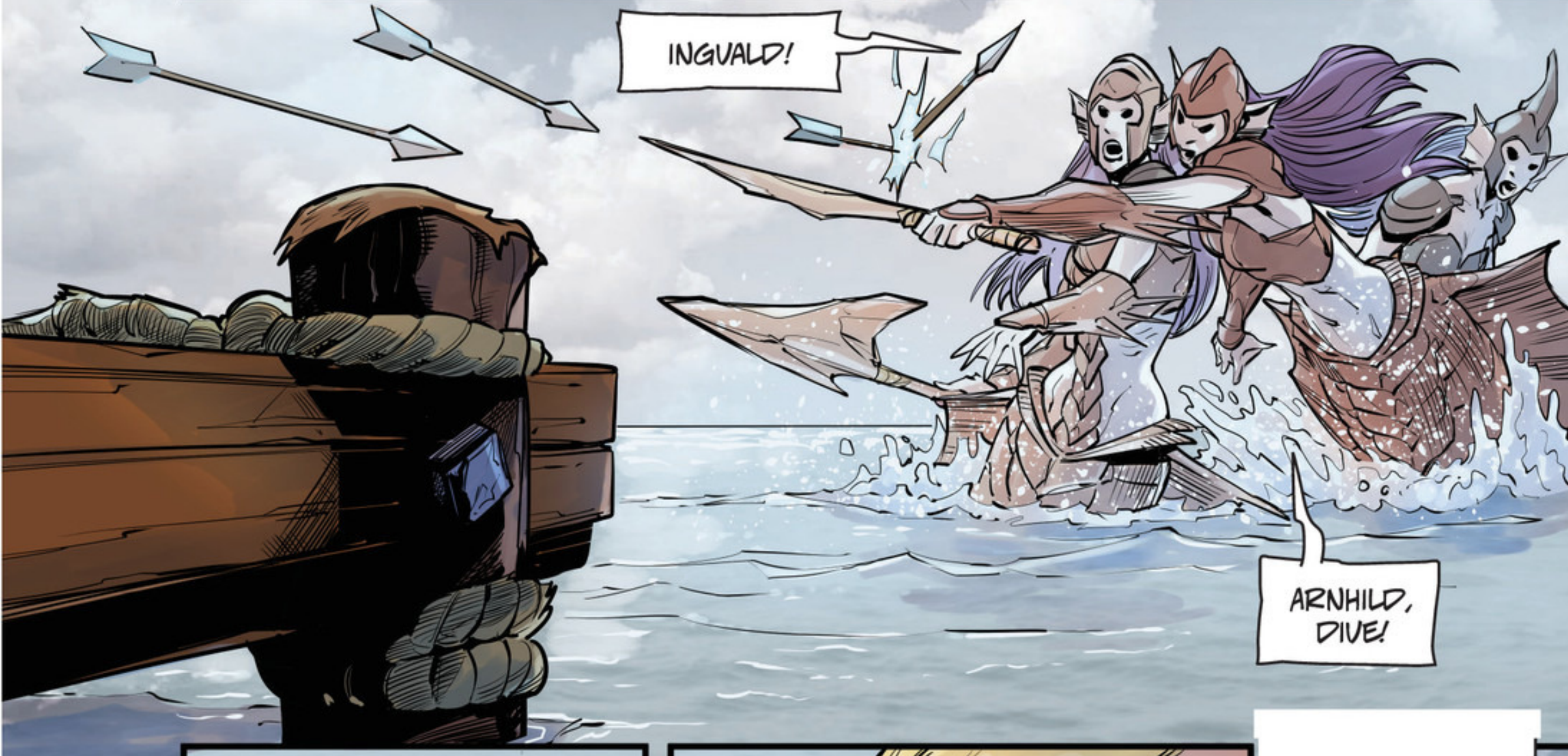
ARNHILD, WE HAVE TO
GET OUR OF HERE! NOW!

WE CAN'T STAY
AT THE SURFACE...



FATHER!

TRAITORS!



INGVALD!

ARNHILD,
DIVE!



AAAAHHH!

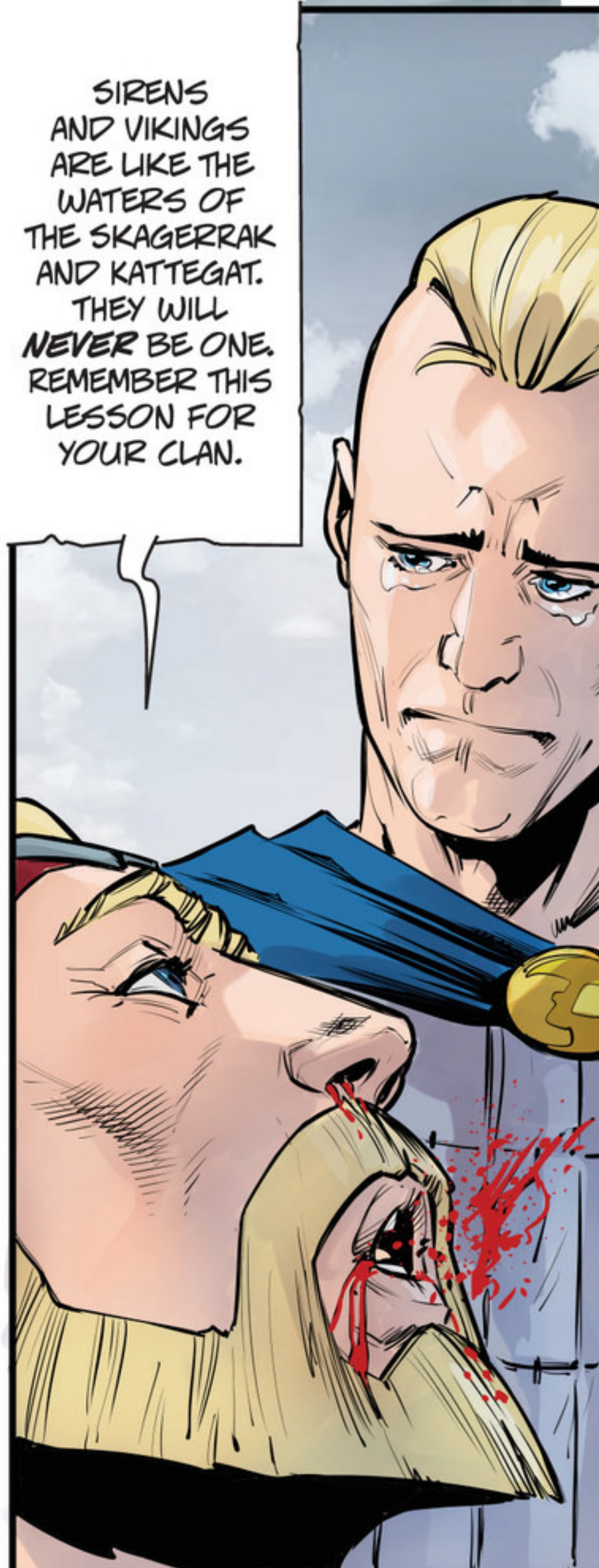


YOU WERE
RIGHT... THE SIRENS
AREN'T ANIMALS...

ANIMALS AREN'T
TREACHEROUS.
MAYBE THIS
TRAGIC INCIDENT
WILL OPEN
YOUR EYES.

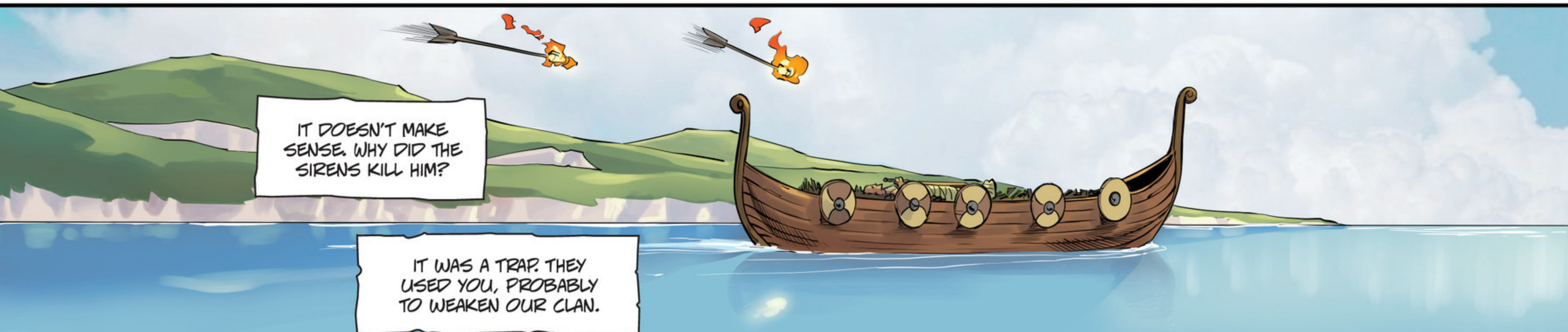


FATHER...
SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH...
PLEASE...



SIRENS
AND VIKINGS
ARE LIKE THE
WATERS OF
THE SKAGERRAK
AND KATTEGAT.
THEY WILL
NEVER BE ONE.
REMEMBER THIS
LESSON FOR
YOUR CLAN.





IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WHY DID THE SIRENS KILL HIM?

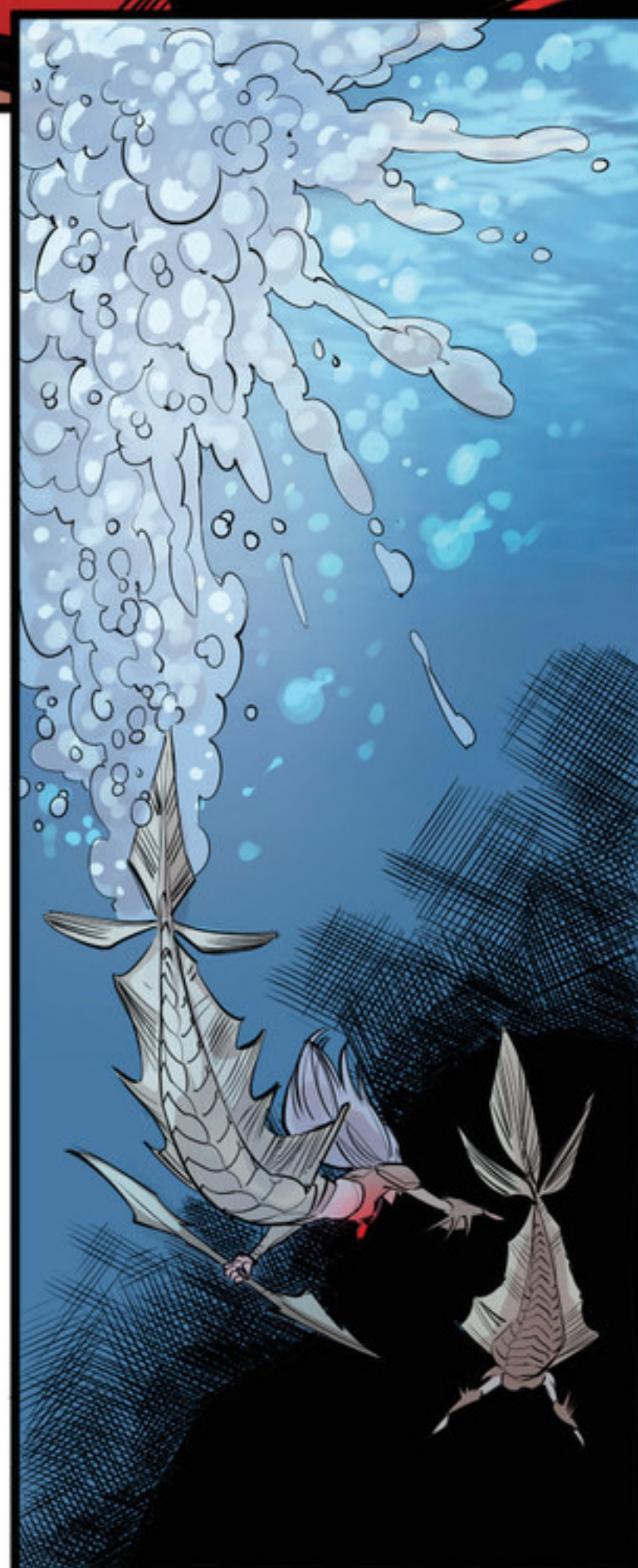
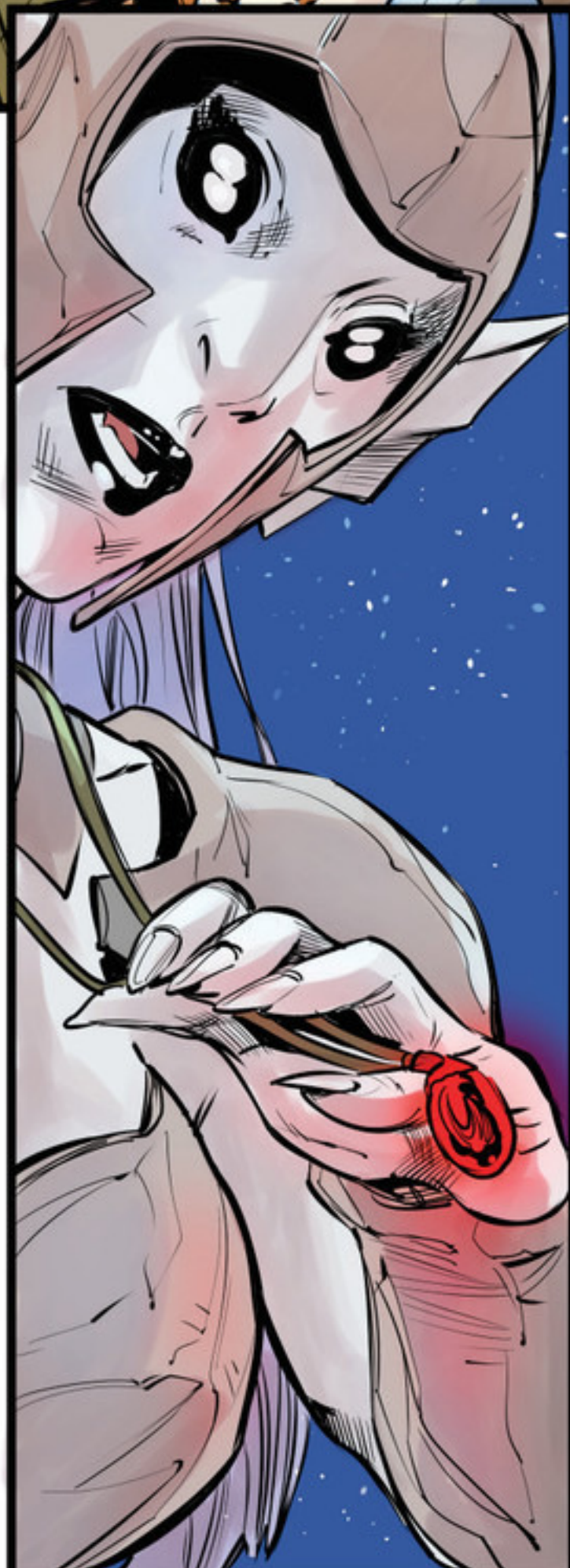
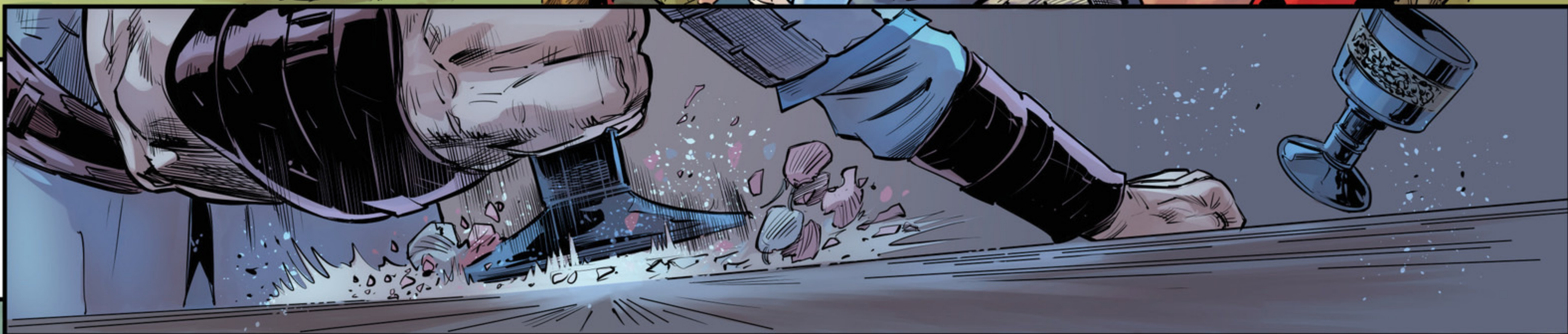
IT WAS A TRAP. THEY USED YOU, PROBABLY TO WEAKEN OUR CLAN.

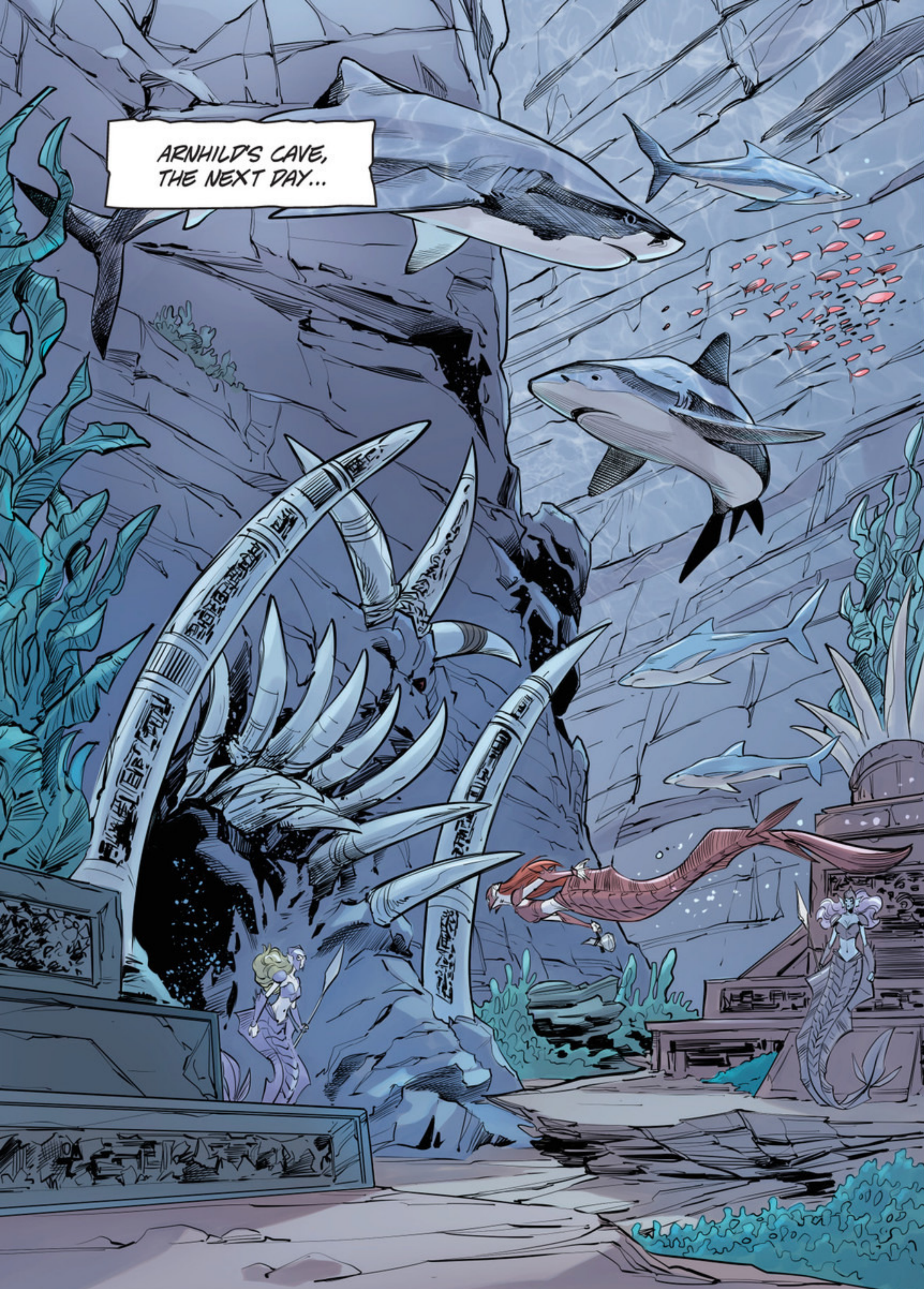


IT'S ALL MY FAULT. AND I THOUGHT WE COULD MAKE PEACE...WHAT AN IDIOT...

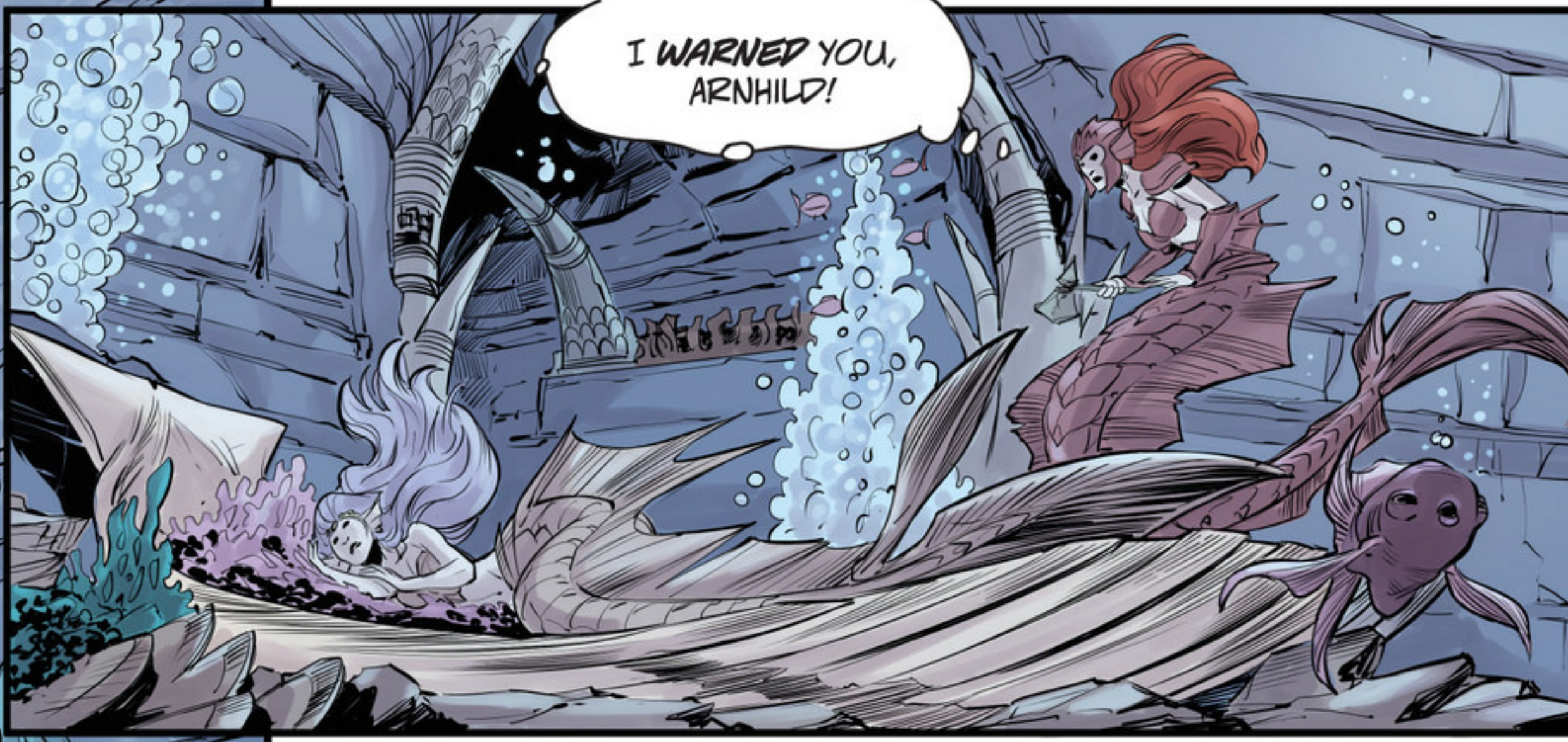
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU ACTED LIKE A FORWARD-LOOKING JARL WITH THE FUTURE OF YOUR PEOPLE IN MIND. NOW THE CLAN IS COUNTING ON YOU. THEY'RE THIRSTY FOR VENGEANCE.







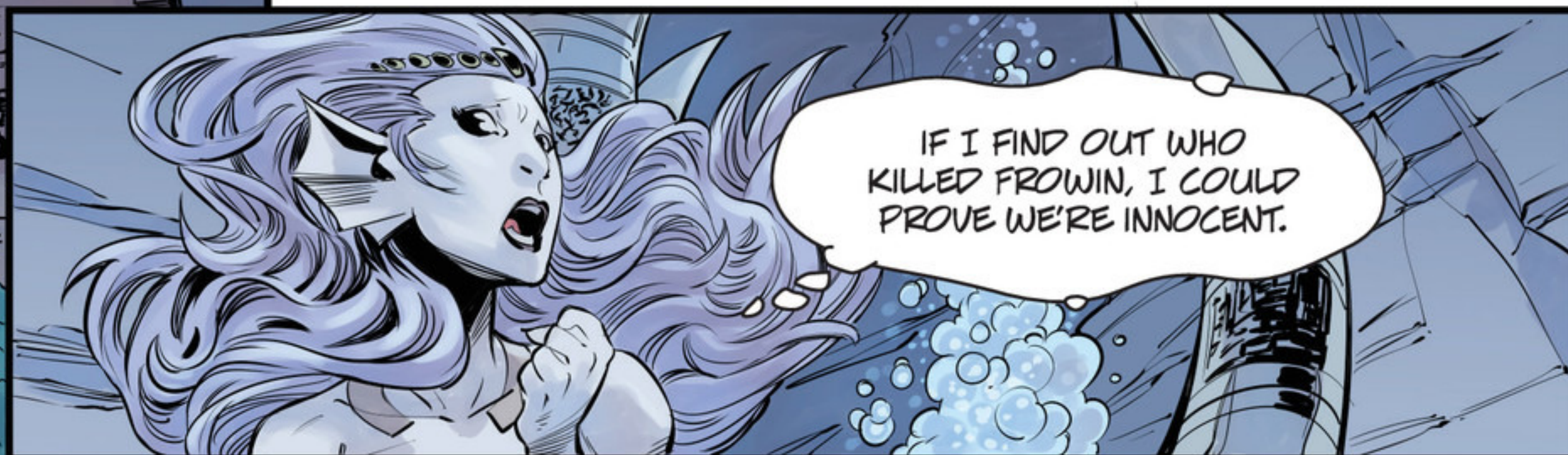
ARNHILD'S CAVE,
THE NEXT DAY...



I WARNED YOU,
ARNHILD!



BUT DESPITE
EVERYTHING THAT'S
HAPPENED, I'M VERY
PROUD OF YOU. YOU'RE
THE ONLY SIREN WHO HAD
THE COURAGE TO TRY
TO UNITE US WITH OUR
ENEMIES.



IF I FIND OUT WHO
KILLED FROWIN, I COULD
PROVE WE'RE INNOCENT.



IN THE MEANTIME, WE MUST TAKE
PRECAUTIONS. THE MAGIC WEAPON
IS FINALLY READY, WE CAN USE IT
TO DESTROY THE CONCH. THEN WE
CAN FREE JÖRMUNGANDR FROM
ITS CHAINS.



IN THE
SIRENS' LAIR.

LOOK OUT!
JÖRMUNGANDR!...



IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO MAKE AMENDS. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FAST ENOUGH TO GET NEAR THE CONCH. YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE BEFORE JÖRMUNGANDR WIPES OUT OUR CLAN.

I HAVE TO GET PAST JÖRMUNGANDR TO ATTACK INGVALD'S SHIP...

YOUR SISTERS WILL ATTACK THE NORSE AND JÖRMUNGANDR TO DISTRACT THEM. YOU'LL MAKE IT, YOU HAVE TO.

I LOVE YOU, MY DAUGHTER.

RAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!

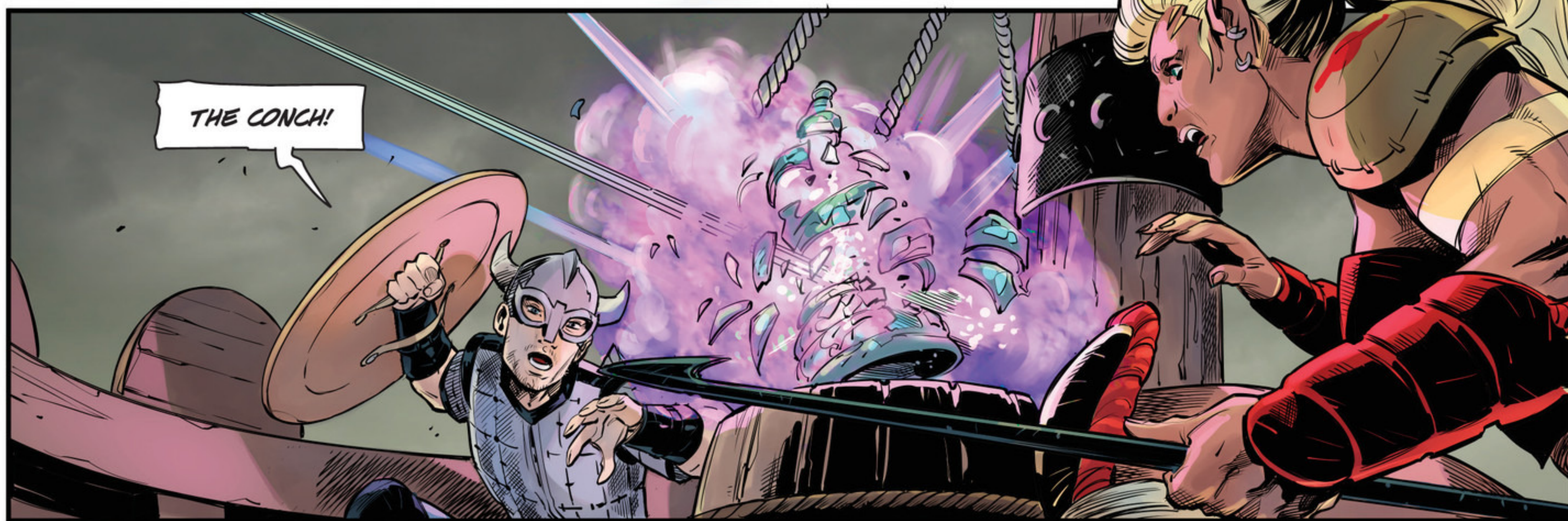
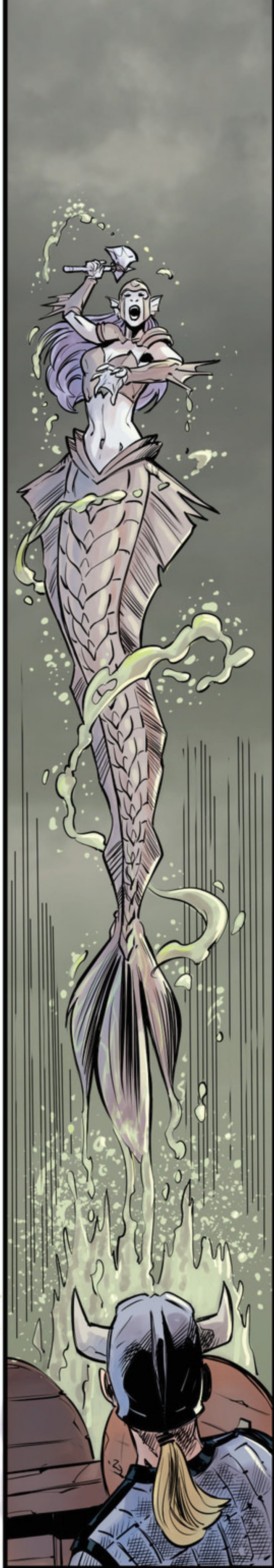
BY THOR, THEY'RE SHOWERING US WITH SPEARS.

LET'S HOPE THE BOATS HOLD OUT.

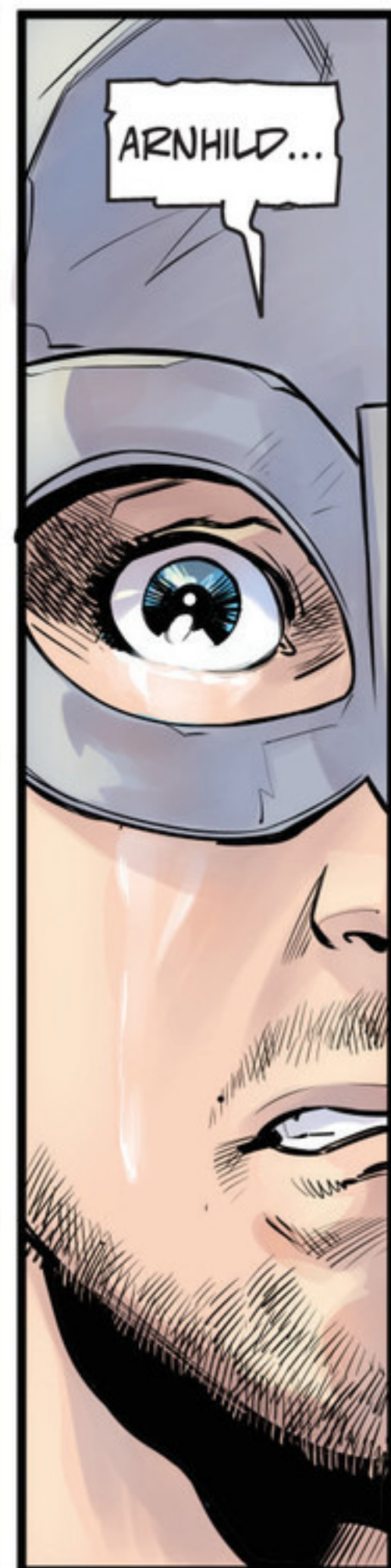
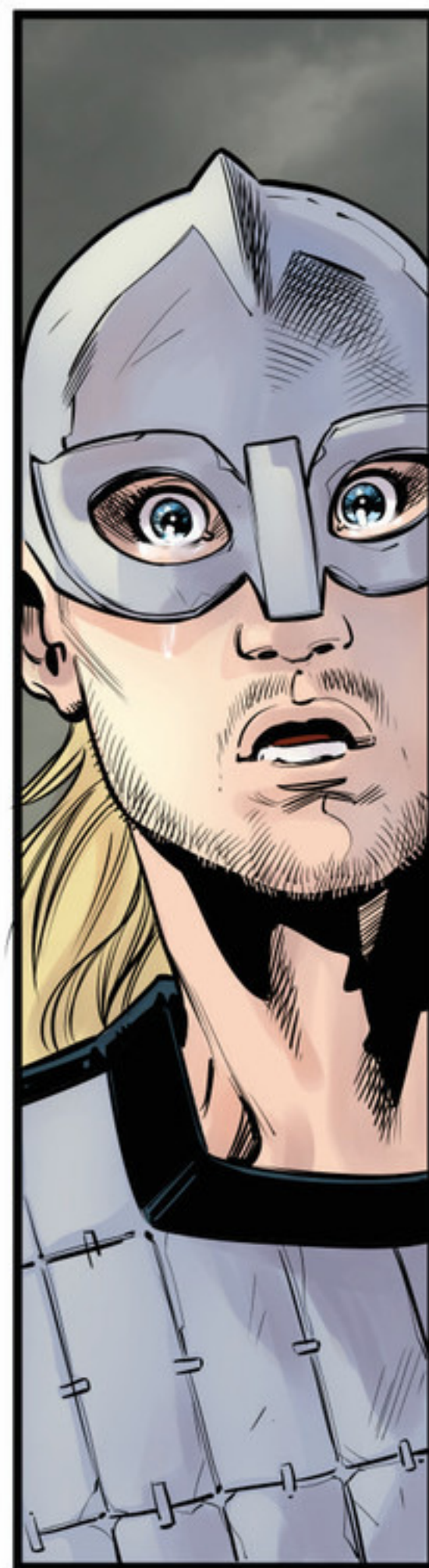
BRRRRRRRRRRRRROOOOOO...

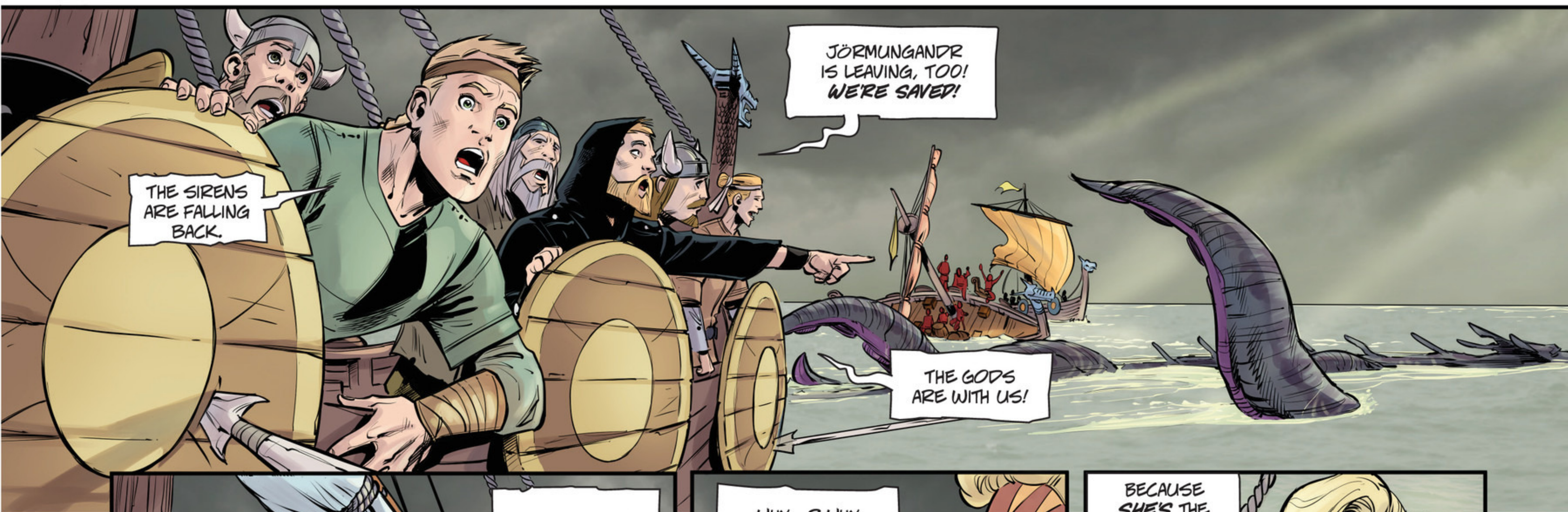
SAVE YOUR HARPOONS. WAIT UNTIL THEY GET CLOSER TO THE SURFACE. THEY'LL GET TIRED BEFORE WE DO.

BRRRRRRRRRRRRROOOOOO...



IT'S ATTACKING US...
INGVALD'S LOST
CONTROL OF IT!





THE SIRENS
ARE FALLING
BACK.

JÖRMUNGANDR
IS LEAVING, TOO!
WE'RE SAVED!

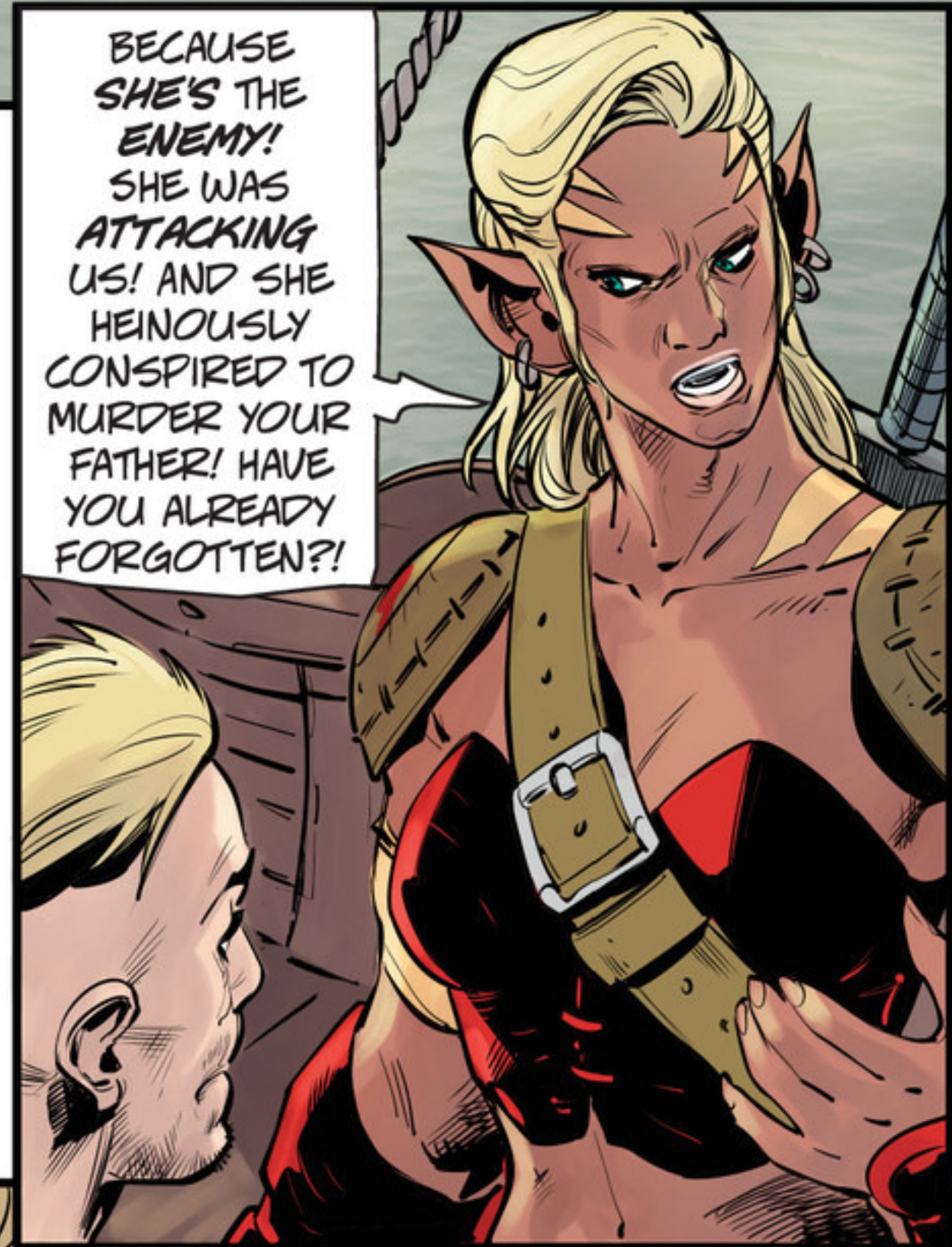
THE GODS
ARE WITH US!



INGVALD, CAN'T
YOU HEAR YOUR
MEN CHEERING?!



WHY...? WHY
DID YOU KILL
HER?! YOU
DIDN'T HAVE T--



BECAUSE
**SHE'S THE
ENEMY!**
SHE WAS
ATTACKING
US! AND SHE
HEINOUSLY
CONSPIRED TO
MURDER YOUR
FATHER! HAVE
YOU ALREADY
FORGOTTEN?!



THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU MESS WITH THE JARL!
SHE GOT WHAT SHE DESERVED.
AND I DID WHAT I HAD TO
DO FOR OUR CLAN!



HAHA! **OUR CLAN?!
A BASTARD MONGREL
LIKE YOU?!**



SO **THIS** IS YOUR
TRUE FACE. WHY DID
YOU DO IT? OUT OF
JEALOUSY? REVENGE?

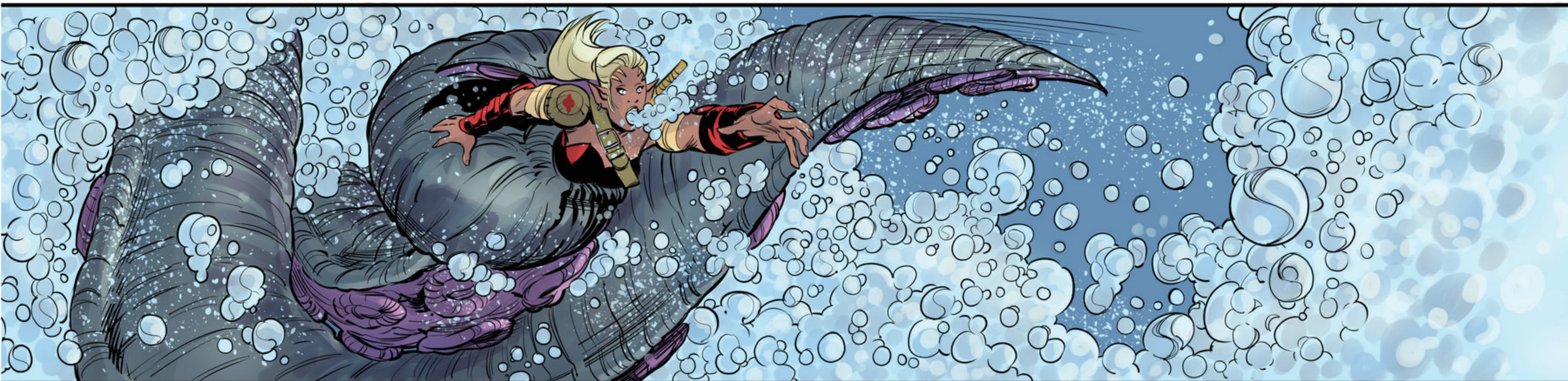
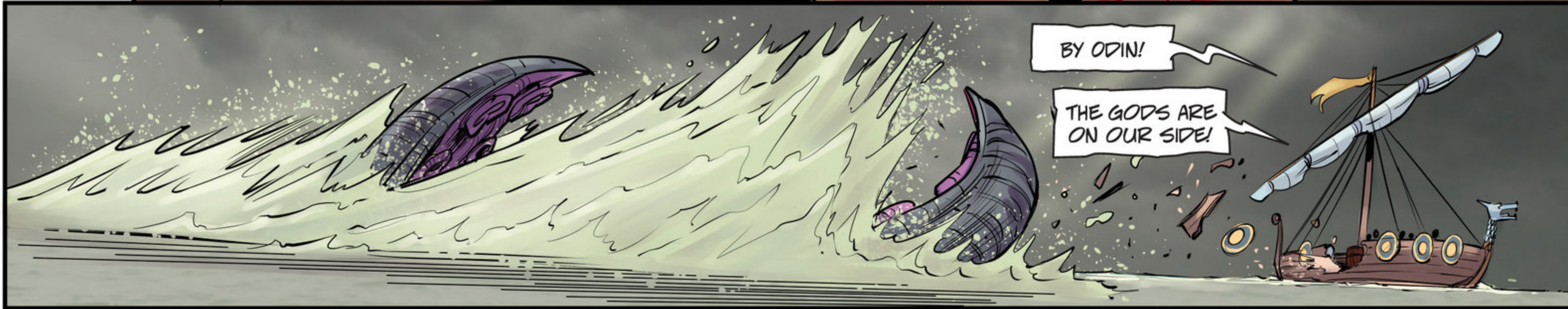
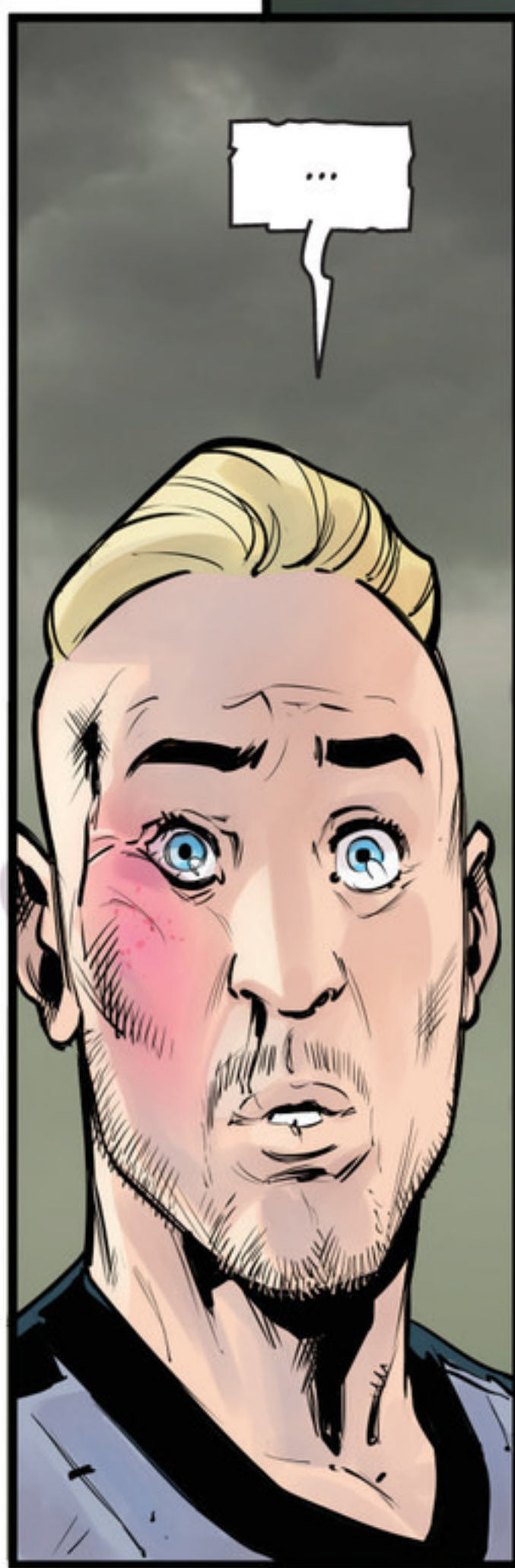
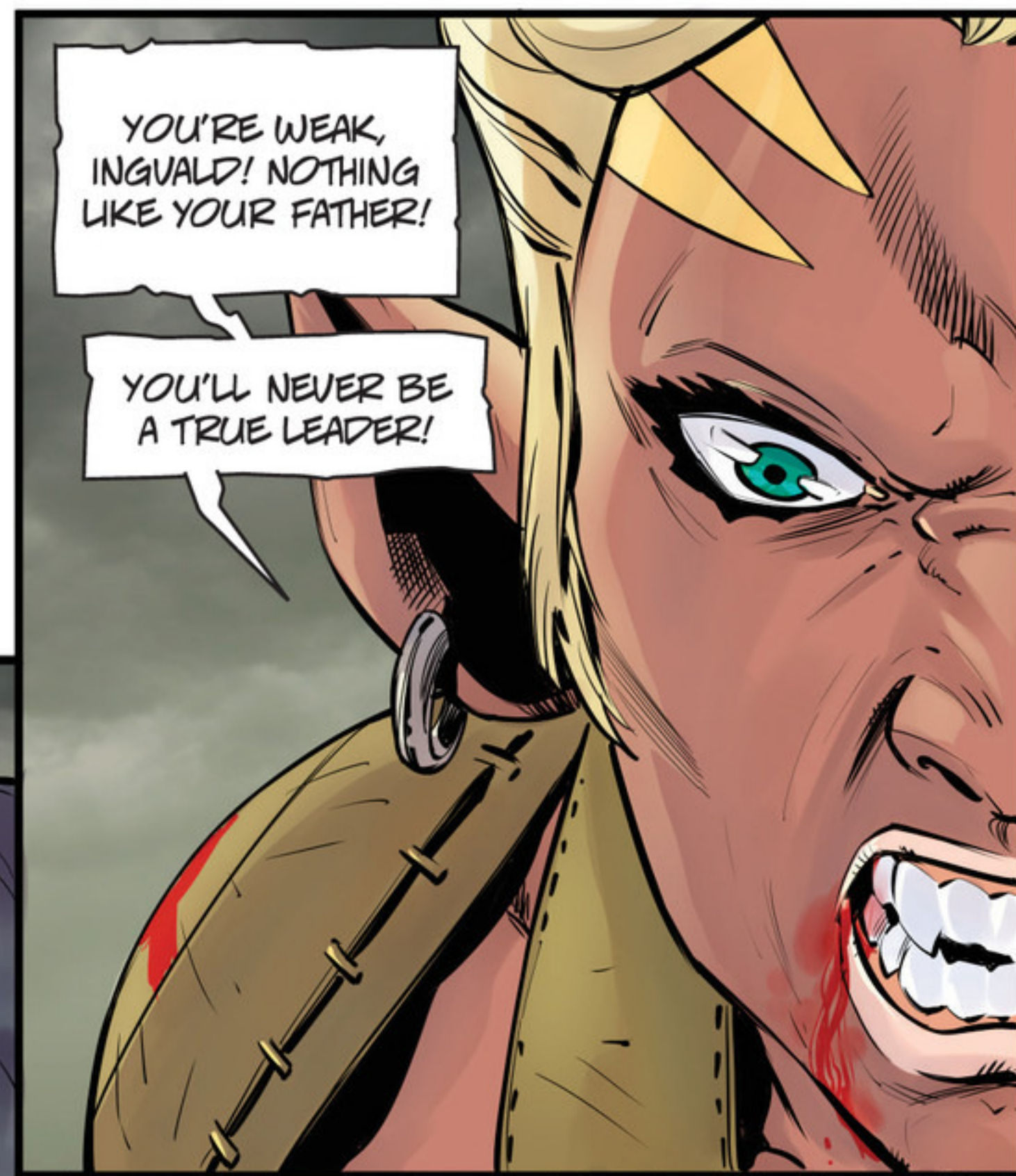
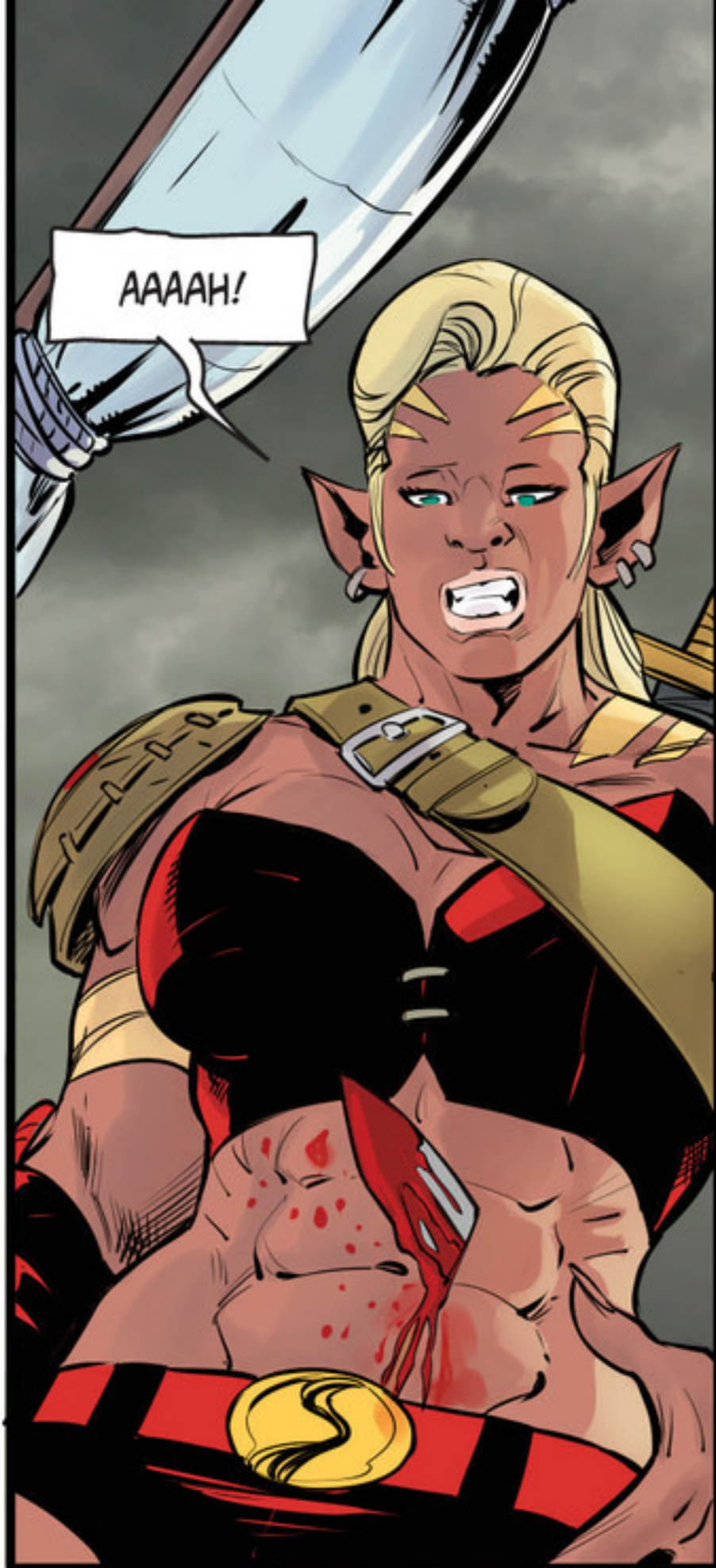


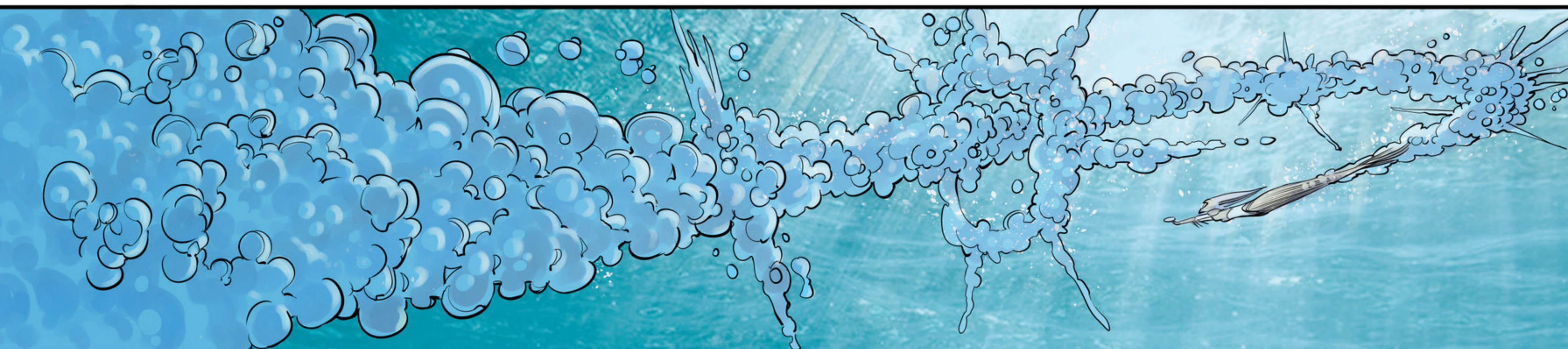
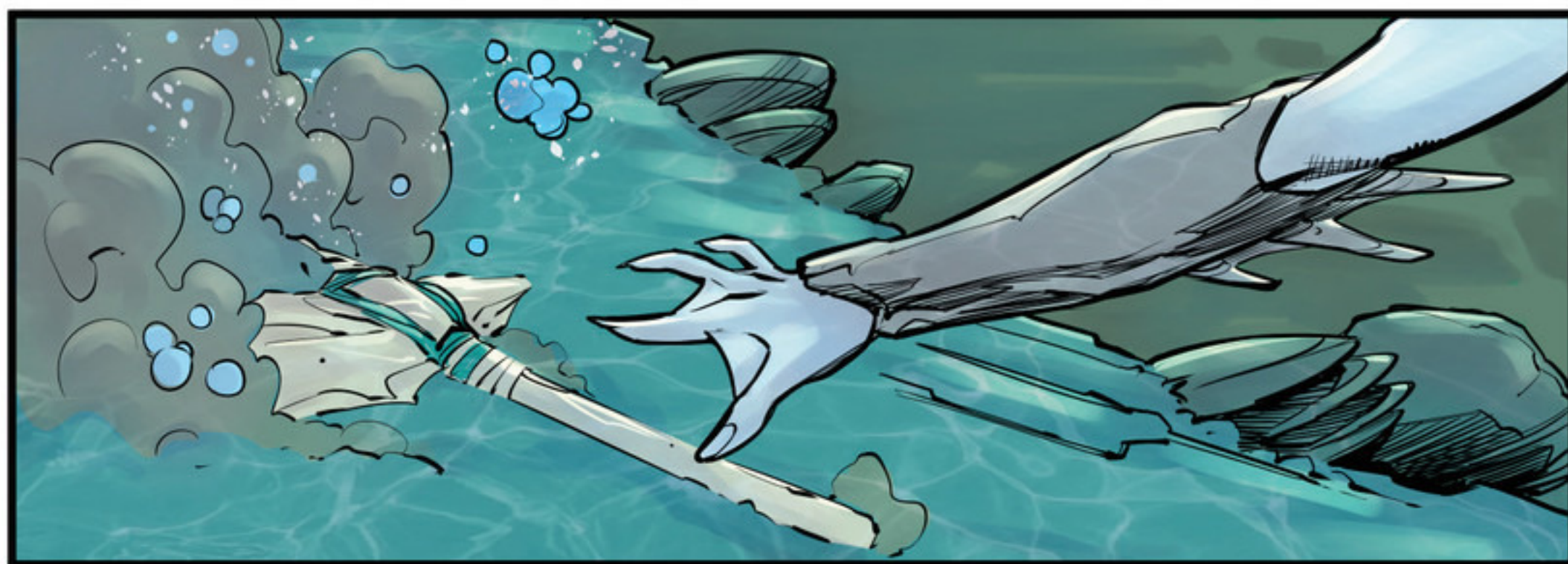
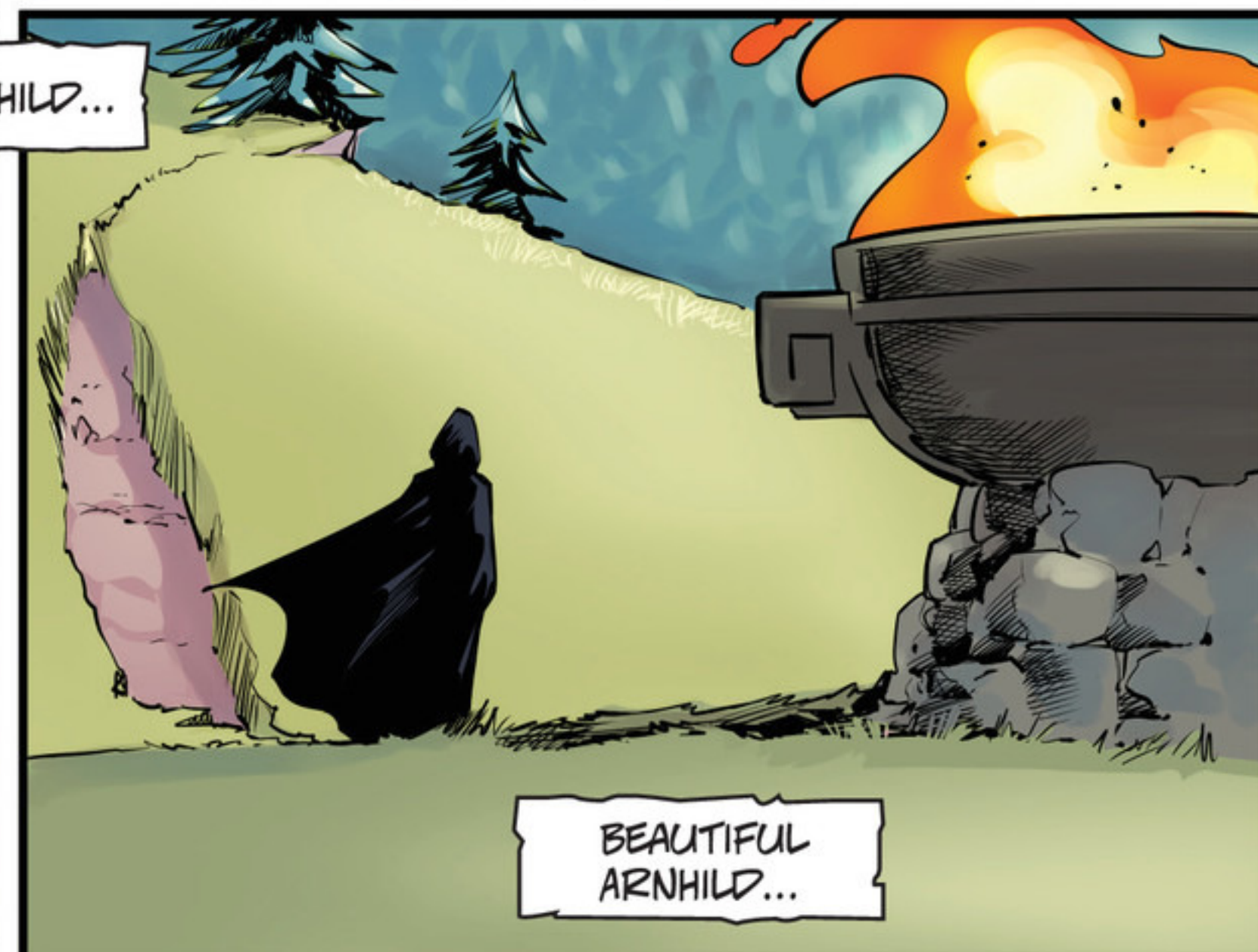
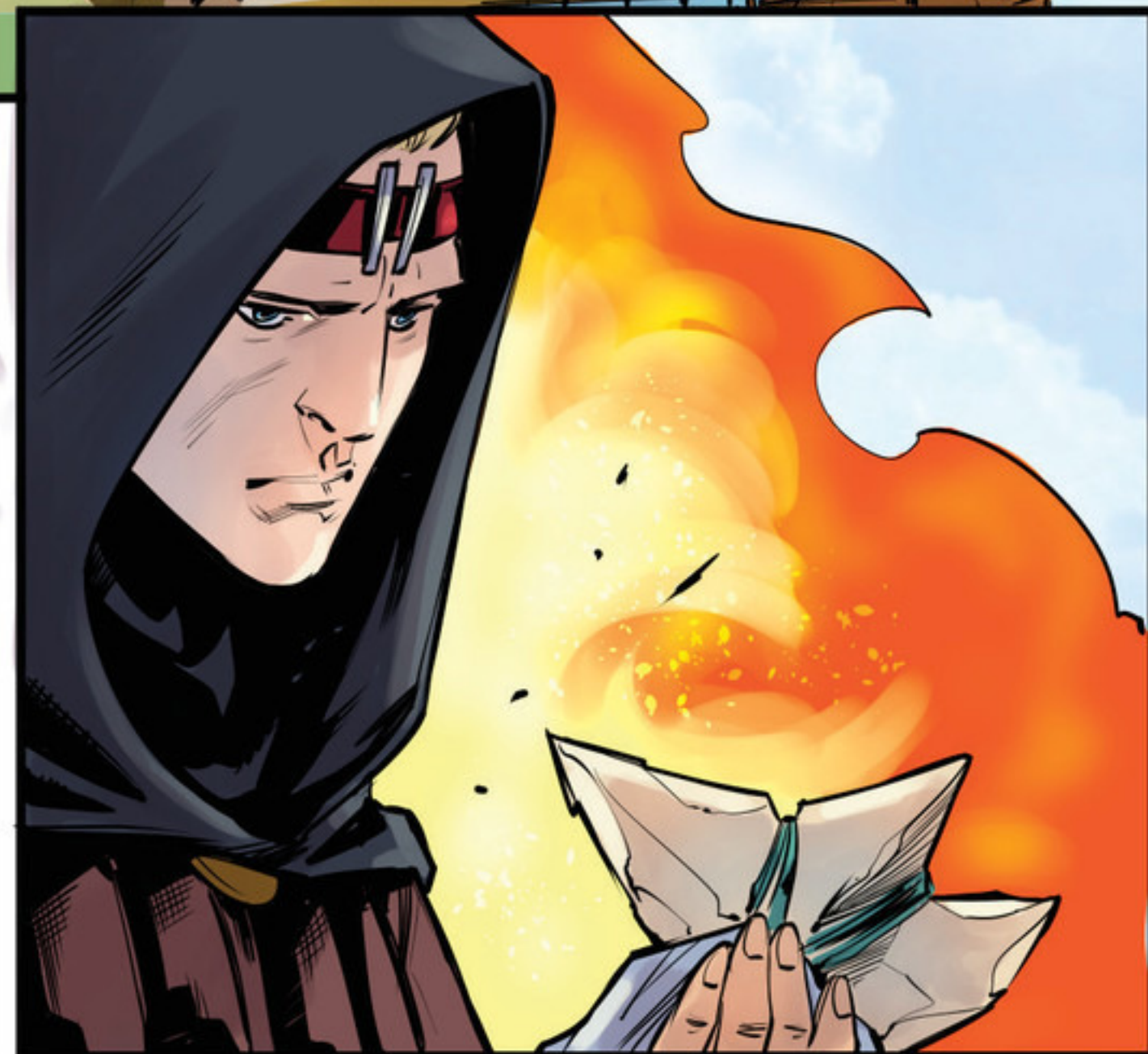
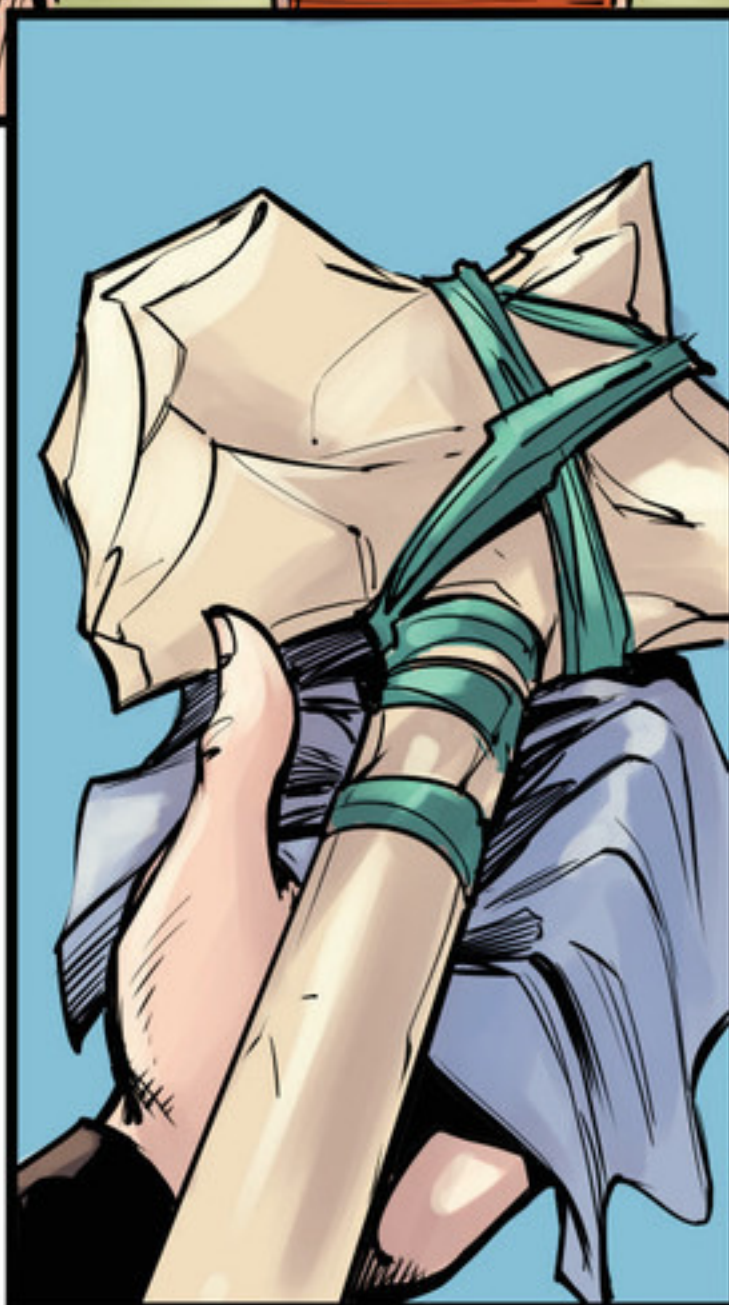
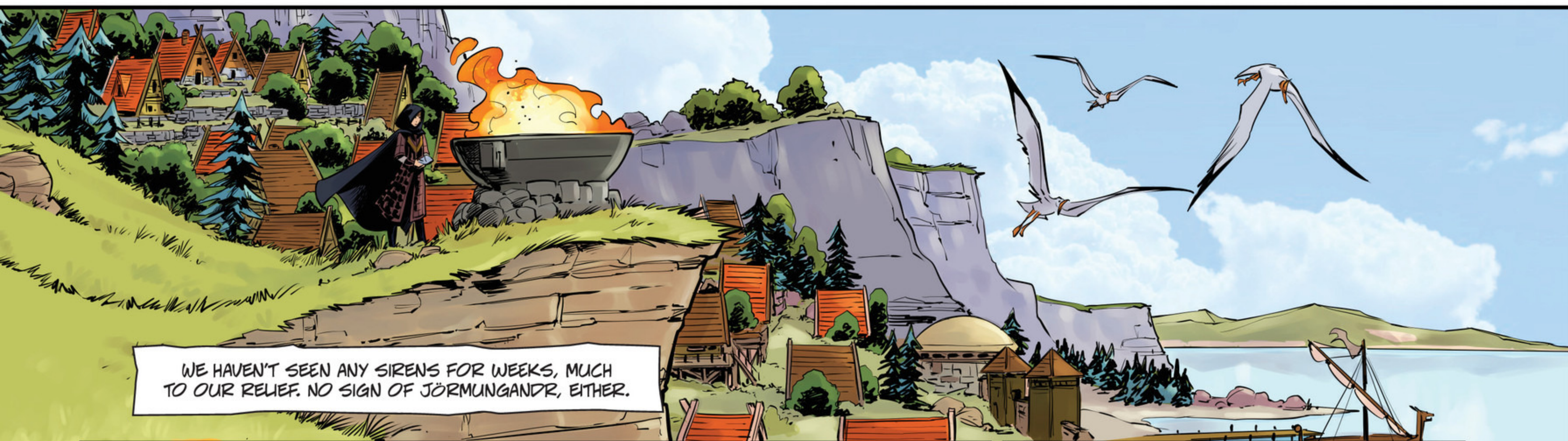
HYPOCRITE! YOU
PRIORITIZED HER OVER
YOUR DUTIES. YOU
DISGUST ME!



IF WE'RE ALIVE RIGHT
NOW, IT'S BECAUSE THEY
SPARED US! OUR ONLY
ADVANTAGE OVER THEM
WAS THE CONCH. NOW
THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE
IT, THE SIRENS COULD
SINK US IN A HEARTBEAT
IF THEY WANTED TO!







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